

Girl Scout Outreach Stories of Impact



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Mia, a Junior from Garfield Elementary School, was always excited for Girl Scout Outreach's After-School Program. She entered the room with a bright smile on her face and sat on the edge of her seat for what the day's program was. She was on the quieter side when engaging with other girls she didn't know but was rather talkative when it came to her friends and the leaders. She was so sweet at school and her personality shined during Mountain Adventure.



After arriving at Camp Whispering Oaks, Mia and the rest of her fellow Girl Scout sisters who were assigned to cabin Black Oak B made their way to the lodge to eat dinner. While eating dinner, Mia approached me and informed me that she was feeling homesick. I took her outside to let her vent about how she misses her mother, reassured her that I also felt nervous about being at camp for the first time, but that we can do this together! Before we left for camp, we had the girls tell their parents, "I got this!" and had their parents repeat it to their Girl Scout before heading on the bus. I reminded Mia how she told her mother she got this and how her mother is being brave at

home for her too. I had Mia repeat, "I got this!" a few times to hype her up until she felt confident enough to go back inside to finish dinner. Once she was ready, I reminded her that I'm here for her if she needs to talk again and we headed back inside to finish dinner before their camp orientation with a night hike.

After their night hike, all the girls at camp were getting ready for bed. Mia walked over to my bed saying she was still feeling homesick and asked for a hug. I gave her one and shared how Miss Alyssa (the co-leader for our cabin) gave me one of her Girl Scout stuffed animals to help me feel better. I offered Mia that she could sleep with it that night, which she gladly accepted it, and went to bed. The next day, Mia settled in easier and began socializing with other girls in her cabin. She led and played games with her Girl Scout sisters during breakfast, lunch, and dinner. She told jokes, sang confidently during skit practice, and wrote a letter to her mother saying how she was feeling a lot better even though she still missed her. Mia not only empowered me to be the best leader I could be, but also empowered her fellow cabinmates through each challenge and activity we did. She embraced her courage and shined with confidence throughout her camping experience, bringing her character to a whole new level.

