



Meet the Regional Directors of the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore

Amy Blankenship

For the past five years, Amy Blankenship has been the primary contact person for hundreds of adults involved with Girl Scouts. "Girl Scout volunteers are some of the most caring and concerned people I've ever met," she said. "I really enjoy helping them achieve their goals working with the girls." As a regional director, Blankenship works closely with volunteers from Eatontown, Hazlet, Keansburg, Long Branch, Middletown, Red Bank, Rumson and the surrounding communities.



Julie Brady

When Julie Brady talks about Girl Scouts, she brings almost 25 years of experience, the first eight as a volunteer and over 16 as a staff member. One of her fondest volunteer memories is watching the girls she mentored from young girls attending a special high school graduation recognition event. "I remember getting emotional," she recalled. "I have fond memories of each of them." As a regional director for the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore, Brady assists volunteers from Farmingdale, Howell, Jackson, Lakehurst, Lakewood, Manchester, Millstone, New Egypt and the surrounding communities.



Dena Mayo

Dena Mayo volunteered with Girl Scouts for nine years before joining the organization professionally eight years ago. Working with volunteers is an inspiration for Mayo. "Seeing their passion renews my commitment to make every girl's experience the best it can be," she said. "Volunteers remind me of why I became a lifetime member." As regional director, she serves a large portion of Ocean County, including Toms River and everything south to the county line.



Kelly McAllister

Kelly is always amazed by how quickly Girl Scout volunteers mobilize to help others in need. "Girl Scouts gives girls and adults opportunities to learn new skills and do great things," said McAllister. "In my five years working for the organization, I have watched the adult volunteers grow and develop new skills as much as the girls." McAllister supports Girl Scouts as a regional director for Asbury Park, Belmar, Brick, Manasquan, Neptune, Point Pleasant, West Long Branch, Wall and the surrounding communities.



DeAnna Poole

Unlike the other regional directors, DeAnna Poole isn't responsible for one geographic area; she's responsible for providing Girl Scout activities in underserved communities across all of Monmouth and Ocean counties. "I like working with girls in urban areas and helping show them new opportunities and ways to achieve their goals," Poole explained. Although many underserved girls live in communities with denser populations, others are located in more rural, affluent areas where career pressures force parents to make difficult decisions regarding involvement in their children's lives.



Cathy Vazquez

"I love that Girl Scouts is different than any other non-profit organization," she said. "Girl Scouts empowers and offers girls opportunities to become leaders in their community." Vazquez serves the central part of the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore service area, providing support to Aberdeen, Colts Neck, Freehold, Holmdel, Manalapan, Marlboro, Matawan, and the surrounding communities.



Photos by Tracy Harman Photography