



Congratulations to

**LAUREN J, AMY F, LAUREN P, ASHLEY V, AND
MELODY V**

**Recipients of the
2014 Masonic Foundation of Ontario Scholarship**



**Thank you
The Masonic Foundation of Ontario
for supporting**

**Girl Guides of Canada–Guides du Canada's
2014 National Scholarship Program**

– October 2014 –



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Thursday October 23, 2014

Dear Masonic Foundation of Ontario,

Thank you very much for your support of Girl Guides of Canada–Guides du Canada’s National Scholarship Program.

Girl Guides of Canada (GGC) is dedicated to ensuring our programming provides opportunities for girls and women to be confident, resourceful and courageous, and to make a difference in the world. The National Scholarship Program supports members as they take the next step in pursuing their educational goals and developing a rewarding career path.



The Masonic Foundation of Ontario’s continued support for GGC’s National Scholarship Program makes it possible for girls and women to realize their full potential. At the heart of GGC is the commitment to enabling girls and women to be all that they can be, to achieve their goals, and to become dynamic and effective leaders. We extend our sincere thanks to The Masonic Foundation of Ontario for your support.

In 2014, GGC’s National Scholarship Program made a great stride forward, as the application and selection process went from a paper application to an online application. This year, 271 applicants applied to the National Scholarship Program. We awarded 28 scholarships, which brings the total number of scholarships awarded to active Guiding members to an incredible 320 since the initiation of the National Scholarship Program in 1985.

Enclosed you will find letters from the five recipients of this year’s The Masonic Foundation of Ontario Scholarships. They detail what this scholarship will mean in the pursuit of their educational goals and career path. Also, I am happy to share with you the special section about the National Scholarship Program from the Fall 2014 edition of GGC’s national magazine, *Canadian Guider*.

Please visit www.girlguides.ca/scholarships for a complete list of the 2014 Scholarship Recipients and to learn more about these inspiring girls and women. GGC looks forward to The Masonic Foundation of Ontario’s continued support of GGC’s National Scholarship Program in 2015.

Best regards,

Heather Barkley
Coordinator, Partner and Donor Stewardship
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WE ARE SOCIAL





Lauren will pursue undergraduate studies in sociology through the generous support of The Masonic Foundation of Ontario Scholarship!



Dear Masonic Foundation of Ontario,

My name is Lauren and I would like to take a moment to send you my gratitude as a recipient of your generous scholarship. This means so much to me that I find trouble finding words to describe how honored I am. Firstly, thank you so much in your support of the Girl Guides of Canada. I think it truly is the best organization for girls as I have been a member since I was five years old.

In Grade 11, I took a course called Introduction to Anthropology/Sociology/Psychology. I really enjoyed that course and I did extremely well in it. I knew right away that I should pursue Sociology in my post-secondary education. As it turns out, my Guider leader also studied Sociology in University. I hope to complete a four year degree in Sociology and then apply to Teacher's College.

I have always loved Girl Guides! My fondest memories as a child are experiences I had with Girl Guides like our trip to Ottawa when I was in Grade four or Stratford in Grade six. I have also made dozens of friends with whom I still have contact and who I will never lose touch with.

Girl Guides has been a constant in my life. I have been a member since I was a Spark and I do not plan on quitting any time soon. I will soon join Links which is a group for older Girl Guides and start my fourteenth year as a member of Girl Guides. I hope to one day run my own unit and share in the sisterhood of Guiding. I would love to make a difference in another girl's life just as so many wonderful volunteer women have done for me.

Thank you again for your support. The scholarship will be put towards my University tuition. I promise to pay it forward with all the kindness and generosity you have shown me.

Sincerely,

Lauren



From Lauren's scholarship application:

"I used to have trouble being open with new people. I sometimes found that I was insecure and often shy towards people I just met but, through Girl Guides, I grew to overcome that. I remember going to Camp Wyoka for a 'Just between Friends' camp as a Pathfinder. This was the first time I ever felt independent. My unit split up during the day and I got to meet people on my own. I was surprised by how friendly everyone was; I never felt judged. Experiences such as these have given me confidence in high school. It led me to Grade 12 Drama and a challenging role in a school play. I confidently took on a part time job and look forward to my future experiences in University.



Not only has Guides been fun, but I've learned about work ethic as well. Time management, delegating and team work have all been things I learned from planning camps and activities. I have had so much experience with public relations before I even entered high school! Cookie selling has been a great way to learn how to approach people. Even managing money has been part of my Girl Guide experience. Some of my Guiders showed us how our unit spends our money and what our cookie money really goes towards. So when I submit my summer job resume and they read, "thirteen year member of Girl Guides", they will know that I have good public relations, am friendly and have a good work ethic. Girl Guides has done so much for me and I know I'll never be able to repay the organization. All I can do is wait for the day when I turn eighteen and can become a Guider myself!"

What does education mean to you and why have you selected your program of study?

"Out of all the courses I've taken in high school, one stands out. This semester I've been taking a class about ethics and morality. In this class, we have frequent discussions around society and the media. While writing a reflection for an article about technology's impact on our lives, I had an epiphany. A sort of realization that all through school from pre-school to grade twelve we are bombarded with other people's opinions. Students usually don't get the chance to voice their own opinions. This is why fresh ideas are so valuable. The same principles are constantly being recycled and reused and being passed down into younger minds. I believe that getting a higher education prepares students to be able to discern the constant onslaught of information from what they truly believe is important. Education fuels the desires of students. One wise teacher I had gave me a quote, "There is no satisfaction, whatever at any time. There is only a queer, divine dissatisfaction; a blessed unrest that keeps us marching and makes us more alive than the others." I believe in this quote whole heartedly and I have it posted in my bedroom right now. I think it is quite profound and really emphasizes why education is important to me. The knowledge that I acquire is what makes me. Every lecture I hear I will either rebut it or cherish it. My brain will never be satisfied. I will continue to strive for knowledge, for what I believe to be true. I will continue to learn all my life through books and experiences, and I hope to never lose sight of what is important to me.

I chose Sociology because it is absolutely fascinating to me. I took a Grade eleven class called "Introduction to Anthropology, Sociology and Psychology". This was the most interesting class I have ever taken in all my years in high school. I wanted to study for the tests; I looked forward to reading the textbook. I wanted to know about humans and their patterns. Social Sciences interest me because they are fascinating topics. I will get the opportunity to learn about where we came from and where we're going. This is why I know this is the right path for me."



Amy will pursue undergraduate studies in biology and mathematics through the generous support of The Masonic Foundation of Ontario Scholarship!



Dear Masonic Foundation of Ontario,

I am writing to thank you for the donation that you made towards the scholarship that I received from Girl Guides of Canada, the Masonic Foundation of Ontario Fulltime Scholarship. As I will be studying at university next year, a choice that can be quite expensive, this scholarship will be of great assistance to me and my family. Your contribution is very much appreciated.

If I could use one word to describe myself, it would be dedicated. During semester one of my grade twelve year, I received 91% in interdisciplinary studies (Link Crew), 95% in university level chemistry, 96% in university level biology and 99% in advanced functions. I also earned an award for achieving the highest mark in each of these courses. In addition, I am treasurer for the prom committee and student activity council at the school. I have also helped to lead the summer camps at this barn.

One of the most important aspects of my life is my Girl Guide membership. I have been involved with Girl Guides of Canada since age five, making this my thirteenth year in Guiding. The opportunities that this organization has provided me with have had a positive influence in all areas of my life. Not only have I been able to make amazing friends within my community, but I have also had the chance to meet girls from all around the world at events such as Guiding Mosaic 2010, a ten day camp held in Guelph, Ontario. I have earned my Lady Baden Powell Challenge Award, Canada Cord, Community Service Pin, First-Aid certificate and Gold Chief Commissioner's Award all thanks to Guiding. Each of these challenges are well recognized by all, and have allowed me to gain leadership and volunteer experiences that I could not have had otherwise. I am also a leader of a Spark troop, meaning that I volunteer my time once a week to help girls ages 5 – 6 enjoy Girl Guides. Next year, I plan to attend university for a biology and mathematics program. This will allow me to receive an Honours Bachelor of Science degree, with which I hope to continue my studies at graduate school, focusing on the research behind genetics. Thank you once more for the Masonic Ontario Fulltime Scholarship. This will not only help me to achieve my goal of being able to contribute to society through research, but also to maintain my involvement with Girl Guides of Canada, helping the next generation of girls to have the positive experiences that I did. Being awarded this scholarship is an honour, thank you for allowing it to happen.

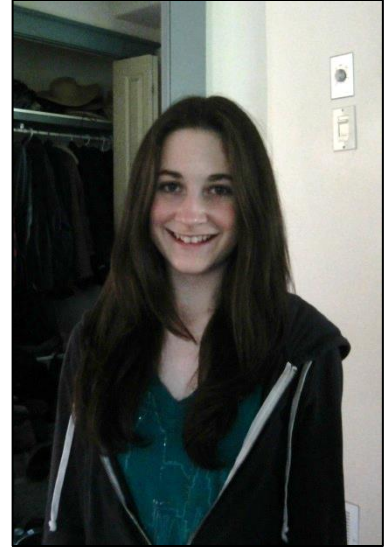
With sincere gratitude,

Amy



From Amy's scholarship application:

“At the age of five years old, I joined Girl Guides of Canada, which has had numerous positive impacts on my life to date. Not only have I had the privilege to meet numerous amazing friends from all over the world, but I have also been taught many valuable life skills. These skills include leadership stemming from the time that I spend as a junior leader for the 1st Merrickville Sparks, which has also helped me to decide on my goal of potentially becoming a teacher in the future. Other skills that I have been taught in Guiding include taking responsibility for my actions, as my leaders have always made it clear that doing so is critical. In addition, I have gained survival skills from lessons taught on this subject, hiking and camping, which are all things that I would not have experienced as frequently had I not joined Guiding. Although the traits listed above are fantastic characteristics that I have gained, I consider the most valuable quality which Guiding has brought me to be confidence. As a whole, I am a fairly timid person, but Guiding seems to have been able to break down some of this shyness, as I find that when I am at Girl Guide events this nervousness leaves and I am able to become my true self. Furthermore, having the opportunity to lead Sparks every week has helped eliminate my timidity, primarily due to the fact that I am required to seem confident around these girls in order to allow them to see me as a leader.”



What does education mean to you and why have you selected your program of study?

“In my opinion, education stands for many opportunities. First, it gives all those who have access to an education the chance to learn more about the vast world that we live in as well as the functioning of it. This knowledge is key to not only understanding our role as humans on Earth, but also to progressing as a society and making the positive changes that are necessary to reduce the problems in this world... For me personally, having an education will mean that I will be able to achieve my goal of earning a university degree, later allowing me to follow the career path that I am striving for. Attaining this job will keep my life on the track that I hope to have, ensuring that I am happy and can provide for myself in addition to a potential family.

The program that I have chosen is an undergraduate degree in Biology and Mathematics. I chose this area of study because the degree seemed fairly unique, and combined the two subjects that I enjoy most: biology and mathematics. Looking beyond the fact that I am interested in both of these topics, I am also able to understand both with a high degree, achieving a 99% in Gr.12 Advanced Functions and a 96% in Gr.12 Biology. Such a level of comprehension gives me hope towards what I could potentially contribute to society, and makes me optimistic that I will be successful with a career in either subject. The jobs which I could receive in this area include an occupation in the field of genetics or a teacher. If I were to work with genetics, I would hope to be able to look at family heritage and the inheritance of different traits or diseases. As a teacher, I would be rewarded with the opportunity to assist others in gaining an education and furthering another generation's understanding of our world.”

Lauren will pursue undergraduate studies in international food business through the generous support of The Masonic Foundation of Ontario Scholarship!



Dear Masonic Foundation of Ontario,

My name is Lauren, I am 17 years old and the purpose of this letter is to thank you for the generous donation that you have contributed towards my scholarship. I am honored to be receiving this scholarship. Guiding has been a huge part of my life for the past 12 years and being recognized for all of my hard work and dedication through this scholarship is a privilege that I am thrilled to experience.

I began my guiding experience when I was five years old in sparks. From that point on guiding has been a huge part of my life. I have had some incredible opportunities, like going to New Jersey for Beach Jam in 2010 and spending every summer up at Camp Wyoka since I was eight years old. The friendships I have made with my fellow girl guides are everlasting, I have no idea where I would be without my sisters in guiding. The accomplishments I have achieved, from the Lady Baden Powell Award in Guides, the Canada Cord Award in Pathfinders and the Bronze, Silver and Gold Chief Commissioners Awards in Rangers fill me with a sense of pride knowing that I persevered in order to obtain these awards. I look forward to the future that awaits me at university where I will be studying International Food Business. In the program I will learn about the business revolving the food industry, and in my 2nd year I will be studying overseas! I give guiding a lot of credit for preparing me to be a confident, self-assured, independent young woman and being able to move 1,800 kilometres away to experience the university program of my dreams.

After graduating from the International Food Business Program in 2018 I will have a Bachelor of Agriculture and a Bachelor of Business Administration. In terms of a career I will have all the knowledge and skills to work in the food industry on the business side of things. Once I have a career I plan on remaining in guiding as a leader. I am thankful for all of the life lessons and new experiences my leaders have given me, so I hope to be able to do that for girls in the future. Again I thank you for the scholarship you have given to me and I will do my very best in my post-secondary education.

Thank you,

Lauren



From Lauren's scholarship application:

"The leadership skills I have obtained through guiding are now being transferred into my career. Guiding is my identity. Someone may know me as a friend, daughter, sister, but my identity will always be a girl guide. I wear my uniform with pride and honor because I belong to the most amazing organization. The guiding movement is something I support and will continue to support for the rest of my life. Guiding is in my blood, it's who I am. What I have experienced through guiding I would have never had the opportunity anywhere else. I have met my best friends through guiding and my leaders have been positive role models for me in my life. I am confident that I will maintain these relationships for the rest of my life, spending so many years camping with the same people creates a special bond that is unattainable anywhere else.



I can't even begin to list all the skills I have learned through guiding. There are practical skills that are taught, I can pitch a tent in under ten minutes by myself. I have also learned how to use a compass, identify different trees and tracks, cooking and so many more! The more important skills is the personal growth I have had as an individual. Guiding has made me a more confident, independent, kind, thoughtful, fearless, self-assured and beautiful individual. I am so happy with who I am, and I give all the credit to guiding."

What does education mean to you and why have you selected your program of study?

"To me education means I will be able to be self-sufficient in my future. I was always taught that it is important to be able to provide for yourself and not have to rely on someone else. This belief has pushed me to do many things I would have normally not have been comfortable doing like, getting a job and attaining my license. What I have learned through these experiences is how to be proud of myself. I am able to say that I earned my money and I can drive myself somewhere. I no longer have to look to my parents to provide me with the necessities of life. Once I have my degree I believe that I will be able to accomplish anything. I am driven to be a successful business woman with my goal to one day be CEO of a large corporation. I believe that education is the key to success, having a solid education and a degree will open so many doors for me in my future.

The program I will be attending is unlike any other program in the world. At the end of four years I will have two undergraduate degrees; one in Agriculture and one in Business from two different universities. I would have studied in Iceland, Nova Scotia and The Netherlands and I will have completed two, three month work terms. This program is called International Food Business and this is my passion. I was always told to find a job you will enjoy and you won't have to work a day in your life. I love food and I love business, so this program was made for me. I am ecstatic to begin this program because it is the most phenomenal program out there and I am honored to be a part of it. "



Ashley will pursue undergraduate studies in history and philosophy through the generous support of The Masonic Foundation of Ontario Scholarship!



Dear Masonic Foundation of Ontario,

I wanted to thank you for your support of Girl Guide Scholarship Program and assisting me in achieving my academic goals. I was thrilled to learn that I was selected from so many applicants for the 2014 Masonic Foundation of Ontario Fulltime Scholarship - 1st Year student.

I have been a Girl Guide, since the age of five and continued through all program levels achieving the highest awards at each level including the Gold Commissioners Award, the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and the GGC Ontario Youth Volunteer Award. Of course, it was a no brainer that I would become an Adult Leader after volunteering as a Junior Leader for over six years. I just completed my first year as a Spark Leader (our youngest) and looking forward to my second year in the fall. This summer, I'm working at the Girl Guide Camp, Camp Wyoka, as a Camp Counsellor. This position is fulfilling another dream to help young girls gain confidence, learn new skills and enjoy the great outdoors, as I did at the same camp for many years.

I received offers from two universities. After much review and debate, My plan is to complete a double major in History and Philosophy in the next four years. This is truly amazing to me, as five years ago I was really struggling in school. I just couldn't seem to overcome my dyslexia but I continued to work hard on my studies and now my dreams of attending university are actually becoming a reality.

Girl Guides showed me compassion when I couldn't read, recognized my abilities and encouraged me to set new goals. This scholarship, once again represents a new level of support and opportunity from an organization that has assisted me for 14 years. I will be relying heavily on the foundations of the Girl Guide Motto, Laws and Promise that challenge me every day; to do my best, use my resources wisely and be prepared!

Once again, thank you for this scholarship. I'm overwhelmed with pride and this honour.

Yours truly in Guiding & University,

Ashley



From Amy's scholarship application:

"I have been in Guiding, since I was four and it's hard for me to describe what Guiding has done for me. I think it's done everything! Its helped shape who I am. I'm an avid camper and canoeist because of Guiding. I have traveled, took on new challenges and pushed my beyond my limits. I learned to play guitar because the Duke of Edinburgh challenged me to learn a new skill. I'm more confident because I tried activities that I would never take on. The High Ropes Course at Doe Lake comes to mind standing on top of that hydro pole that was taller than the trees that was scary and an awesome view too!

I'm a new Guide Leader, this year and being responsible for 4 and 5 year old girls who look up to me as a their role model. Guiding has given me lifelong friendships too! I'm working in a unit with a fellow Ranger who is three years my senior and we are now the new generation of leaders. How did that happen, we often wonder.

Guiding has provided me a safe environment to learn and grow. To respect people's different views and look for opportunities to find common goals. The service projects such as volunteering at the Food Bank & Goodwill have helped me to realize that a community helps others first and does not judge. I will continue to volunteer in my community in different capacities, as I know that one person does make a difference.

Receiving this award would mean that I beat all the odds. That having dyslexia did not limit my opportunities, it just made the journey a little more bumpy. It would mean that anyone can accomplish their goals even if it means endless re-writes and homework assignments that were often completely beyond my comprehension at first. A scholarship would mean that I did it! I'm off to university and that Girl Guides who have supported me every step of my journey are doing it again! The thirteen year old, who read her first book in the summer of 2008 has arrived. Nothing can stop me from accomplishing my goals. I'm smart, confident and others believe in me. I may not have the top marks in the class but that's doesn't mean that I don't work hard on my studies."



What does education mean to you and why have you selected your program of study?

"When I was much younger, I didn't dislike school but I sure did not love it either. In Grade 8, my parents were told that I should stay in locally developed programs throughout high school and learn a trade. In Grade 8, I hadn't read a grade level book yet. In fact I had not read a book on my own, I was still struggling. I was lucky that I found a retired teacher to tutor me. She saw me as exceptional and gifted and helped me to find my path. When I could finally read, now I always had a book in my hand. Trying to make up for lost time and all those books in my room were unread and needed my attention. Education means perseverance, learning about different cultures and places, unlocking the mysteries of the past and discovering new worlds. It's all those museums my parents would take me to see, when I could not read. There was so much to learn and history was the key to learning for me.

It is my hope that when I complete the History Program at university I can combine my love of history and help children that have difficulty connecting to the world of words. Perhaps, I will work at a big museum or city library. Education means opportunity to learn regardless of how fast you can read or write or not at all. For me, it means that I can achieve goals and so can others."

Melody will pursue undergraduate studies in medical sciences through the generous support of The Masonic Foundation of Ontario Scholarship!



Dear Masonic Foundation of Ontario,

I am writing this letter to express my gratitude to The Masonic Foundation of Ontario for their contribution to my scholarship.

Through my 14 years as a member of Girl Guides of Canada, from a little Spark to Ranger I have volunteered for numerous causes and learned a wealth of lessons, but overall I have learned how powerful women are. After going so far in the organization as a girl member, I felt a need to continue. I wanted to pass the knowledge and female empowerment onto young girls who are in the position I was in. That is why I became an adult leader for Girl Guides of Canada. Now the guiding year is wrapping up, and when I look back at the year I cannot even believe how much I have learned about guiding, teamwork, and myself! Next year, when I go to university, I will definitely be finding a Girl Guide unit in London to be a part-time leader!

In September I will be starting my first year at university. I am currently enrolled in the medical sciences program, and I am so excited to learn! To me, my education is about following what I love. It's about seeing how far I can stretch my mind. I plan to explore every known fact about biology and the human body! I have taken every possible science course in high school and I'm not done with science. I probably never will be. However, pursuing a post-secondary education is very expensive and you have helped relieve stress about paying for it! Thank you so very much for your generous donation.

Sincerely,

Melody



From Melody's scholarship application:

"Thursday nights are my favorite time of the week because that is when our meetings are held. I've organized and run meetings and workshops for the Pathfinders about things like the effects of the media on self-esteem and body image. I have planned outings to give back to the community like going to the food bank and picking up garbage. Knowing that because of what I do, these girls will gain the confidence and realize their potential to make a difference in the world, keeps me going. And the best part is that I get to see each girl learn more about themselves as a girl and as a member of the community, as the year progresses. I love watching the girls get as much out of guiding as I did. I plan to be a leader again next year in the city where I go to university. "



What does education mean to you and why have you selected your program of study?

"I love science, I love school, and I just can't get enough of the fantastic feeling of learning something new! My major area of interest in school is biological sciences, especially relating to the human body. I want to go to university because when I look at the research focus areas in the department of biology I can barely contain my excitement. I know that in the future I want a career in some type of biological sciences. Right now, jobs in medicine, physiotherapy, or clinical research really appeal to me. As I go through university and I experience all of the areas of biology I plan on choosing one area to specialize in.

For me, going to university and getting an education is not all about the money. I do want to get a job out of it, but it's more about doing what I am passionate about. I could make great money as a plumber, but that is not what I am interested in. To me, education is about following what I love. It's about seeing how far I can stretch my mind. It's about making new discoveries and changing the way we live! I want to explore every known fact about biology! I want to learn all of the theories and develop new ones. I've taken every possible science course in high school and I'm not done with science. I probably never will be. How could I ever get tired of something so fascinating?"