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### Thankful for Community

I am truly thankful for my time with Girl Scouts for many reasons. First, I appreciate being able to give back to my community. Equally important is the chance to engage in experiences and programs with the Girl Scouts, such as visiting colleges like Yale, learning from women mentors at companies like Bank of America, and participating in environmental causes such as the Billion Oyster Project. These experiences have contributed to my growth as an empathetic person who is community-focused and self-driven.

Participating in community service throughout my time as a Girl Scout has brought me joy throughout my life. Getting involved in community activities reminds me of the blessings I already have and deepens my appreciation for the opportunity to help those around me. Volunteering at food pantries in Staten Island has been very meaningful to me. There's an immense satisfaction in assisting others, especially when I reflect on my own life and having blessings such as a loving home and being able to eat hot meals with my family. One memorable experience was making sandwiches for individuals waiting at Project Hospitality's food pantry line. While it may seem like a small effort, these little acts of kindness, like preparing sandwiches, can create a significant difference. These small gestures show people, they matter and are not alone in their struggles.

The sense of belonging that comes from supporting and connecting with others, is incredibly impactful. Building a community is all about coming together to help those in times of need. It often serves as a reminder of the power of kindness and stories in driving change. For example, I watched a movie called "Ordinary Angels," where Hilary Swank portrays a woman in a town that unites to support a girl in need of a transplant. This is based on actual events and highlights the strength that emerges when people come together for a cause. Although I hope never to find myself in such a situation, knowing that communities can band together during tough times brings comfort. This awareness inspires me to lend a hand whenever possible, no matter how small my contribution may appear.

Also, being part of Girl Scouts has opened doors to rewarding experiences. Exploring tours has broadened my perspective on opportunities and inspired me to contemplate my future. Furthermore, connecting with mentors at institutions like Bank of America, The Billion Oyster Project or camping at Camp Kaufman under the Leadership Institute and collaborating with other Girl Scouts has deepened my understanding across diverse fields. These interactions have influenced my aspirations and dreams by offering me valuable insights into the paths I could pursue. The encouragement from these mentors and programs drives me to strive for success and to continue to make a difference in the lives of others.

Being involved with Girl Scouts has provided me with more than I expected. It has fostered connections, broadened horizons, and most importantly, allowed me to contribute to my community. For all these reasons I'm thankful for being a part of Girl Scouts. This organization has taught me about the impact of kindness, the significance of service, and the value of collaboration within a community. I can't wait to continue my journey, with this incredible group where I will continue to serve, learn and grow.