



## Charlotte Menke

*Pine-Richland HS, Grade 12*

# 2021 Girl Scout Humanitarian

Charlotte addressed teen isolation by creating a mentor program for teens and by teens that bridges the gap from middle school to high school to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award. This year in particular, as the pandemic magnified a need to stay connected, Charlotte shifted her program to a virtual platform to keep the group unified. For sustainability, she created a video of mentors offering advice and reassurance to rising freshmen that can be used by the district for future orientation sessions. In achieving her goal, Charlotte empowered her peers to make and keep a lasting support network.

Outside of Girl Scouts, Charlotte is a scholar-athlete who is passionate about the arts and service. In addition to being a member of the varsity volleyball team, she is a published author whose work appears in two award-winning anthologies. She was recently awarded a Scholastic Writing & Art Gold Key for her collage work. As an executive officer of Peer-to-Peer, Charlotte presented at the Multiplying Good event that earned Pine-Richland first place and a Jefferson Award. She and her team represented the state of Pennsylvania in Washington, D.C., sharing their efforts with state senators. Her favorite Girl Scout memories are at Camp Redwing—creek walking and singing songs around the campfire.

Charlotte plans to attend a four-year university and major in human development, which combines her interests in psychology and biology. She is looking for ways to be an agent of change, ensuring that people are heard and understood. Whether it be through counseling, public policy, or a related health field, her longterm goal is to help create a more inclusive and equal world.

Charlotte thanks Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania for honoring her with this award—and for providing her with experiences through the Girl Scouts of which she is a 13-year veteran. She also thanks Leslie Straub for being her advisor and her parents and sisters for always supporting her. Additionally, she thanks all the teens for their outpouring of help and willingness to participate, being the difference our community needs.

