



## THE MARY JO JACOBS, M.D. MEMORIAL GIRL SCOUT ADVENTURE FUND

### **What is the Mary Jo Jacobs, MD Memorial Girl Scout Adventure Fund?**

The Mary Jo Jacobs, MD Memorial Girl Scout Adventure Fund was established to honor the legacy of Dr. Mary Jo Jacobs. Annual proceeds from an endowment established by Dr. Jacob's family provides Girl Scouts from Eagle and Garfield Counties, CO with financial resources to enable them to experience the learning opportunities, joy and camaraderie acquired while attending Girl Scout camp.

### **When was the scholarship fund established?**

The family of Mary Jo Jacobs established an endowment in December 2014.

### **How many scholarships are awarded each year? Who decides on the awardees?**

One or more scholarships are awarded annually at donor discretion. The family of Mary Jo Jacobs reviews applications and essays and selects awardees each year.

### **How many girls have been awarded scholarships?**

The first scholarship was awarded in January 2015 to Lanie A. from Glenwood Springs. Lanie received a full-tuition scholarship to attend a weeklong resident camp session at Sky High Ranch in Woodland Park, CO. Since 2015, eleven girls have received full or partial scholarships to attend resident camp at Tomahawk Ranch and Sky High Ranch. Read GSCO [blog](#) for their stories!

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

Girls living in Eagle and Garfield Counties, CO are eligible to apply. Scholarship(s) are awarded to girl members between ages 6-18 at the time of camp attendance. Scholarships are not available for troop/group camping.

### **What kinds of activities are eligible for scholarship funds?**

Resident or day camp experiences must be sponsored or approved by Girl Scouts of the USA, The World Association of Girl Guides and/or Girl Scouts or Girl Scouts of Colorado. Girl Scout camp may be located anywhere in the world.

### **How can girls apply?**

Online applications are open and will be considered in an ongoing manner through each December of each year for attending camp the following year. Applicants must submit a one-page essay (11 or 12 pt. type, single-spaced) explaining what being a Girl Scout means and what part of Mary Jo Jacob's story is the most interesting to her. An application and brief biography of Mary Jo Jacobs is available online and in print by request. Incomplete applications or those received after the deadline will not be considered. Apply here:

<http://www.girlscoutsofcolorado.org/en/for-volunteers/forms-and-resources/scholarship-application.html>

### **What is required after a girl receives a scholarship?**

Recipient(s) must agree to share stories and testimonials about camp to inspire girls to pursue similar adventures.



*This is from a newspaper article printed in the Artesia Daily Press, NM in 1937.*

## Mary Jo Gave Up New Skates for Brownie Training Camp



MARY JO JACOBS

Who was the first Brownie to register for Brownie camp. She is shown counting her money at the registration desk, with the information of the Brownie folders all about her. She is the small daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred L. Jacobs, 214 N. Santa Fe av., and a member of the Seven Dwarfs pack.



ABOUT four months ago, a small eight-year-old girl wanted a pair of skates. Her old roller skates had worn out, and she couldn't go out after school on the sidewalk and coast down the hill on the rusty ones.

Just about the time she wanted the roller skates more than anything else in her young life, there came along the announcement that the young Brownies were going to be able to have a camp this summer.

The skates were a thing of the past.

Ever since that time, she has saved, she has run errands, she has deprived herself of a hundred things which seemed all important at the time, and has saved the whole sum of \$8.00.

The little girl is Mary Jo Jacobs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred L. Jacobs, 214 N. Santa Fe av.

She belongs to the Seven Dwarfs troop of Brownies, of which Mrs. E. M. Slater is leader, and she was the first Brownie to register for camp.

Tuesday she brought her mother down to the Girl Scout office. In her right hand, she clutched a five-dollar bill and three one-dollar bills. Almost every five or 10 minutes she cast a glance into her hand, and just to reassure herself she counted the money several times before Helen Hauser came into the office.

But Mary Jo finally registered at exactly 3:30 p. m. Tuesday, and turned over her hard-earned money so that she might enjoy July 19 to 26 at Camp Scott with her little friends.

Mary Jo can register because she deemed it more important to go to camp and swim and ride horseback, than to have a pair of skates or even a bicycle.

That isn't all Mary Jo couldn't have that she wanted. She missed three of her favorite movies.

Sometimes she carried her lunch to school so that she could save that little bit, and occasionally she went without dessert to even her budget.

Small errands around the house earned her a nickel here and a dime there. And for being especially good at home there is an extra bonus of a few cents.

Last Saturday, Mary Jo and one of her neighborhood chums surprised Mrs. Jacobs by washing the family car. That earned her a dime.

Mary Jo is given a small weekly allowance to buy whatever she needs, but she must save a portion of it. That's exactly what she did for her Brownie camp.

Margaret Ruth, Mary Jo's sister, has for four years gone to Girl Scout camp. That in itself was the incentive for Mary Jo's plans to go.

Now since she is registered and it's sure that she's saved enough to go to camp, the rest of her money and earnings will be spent for handicraft items, a pair of Brownie oxfords and Brownie shoes for camp.

It's worth more to Mary Jo to be able to enjoy camp training for one week than it is to go to a show Saturday afternoon or eat an ice cream cone that's a fancy of the moment.



Dr Mary Jo Jacobs was the true image of a Girl Scout by acting on the words of the Promise and Law, not just reciting them. Just as illustrated in the newspaper article, Dr Jacobs began when she was very young taking on the responsibility of self-discipline to save the money she needed to go to camp by choosing to give up some things she would have liked to have or done. It was this determination and self-discipline that propelled Dr Jacobs through her successes, accomplishments and challenges throughout her life.

The importance of participation in Girl Scouts crossed multi-generations for Dr Jacobs and her female family members. Prior to Dr Jacobs joining Girl Scouts, her mother, Gertrude W. Jacobs was a Regional Chairwoman of Juliette Low World Friendship Fund (“this was set up in memory of Juliette Low by the GS of the USA, ‘for the promotion of Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding throughout the world as a contribution toward world peace and good will.’”) in 1949 and Dr Jacobs older sister, Margaret Brock was a Scout. Both Dr Jacobs’ and Margaret’s two daughters participated many years in Girl Scouts and now one of Dr Jacobs’ granddaughters is a member.

Dr Jacobs continually participated in the activities of Girl Scouts from Brownies through Senior Scouts with Girl Scout camp being the yearly activity she really looked forward to. Some examples of the memorable service activities included collecting cast-off toys, repairing them and giving them to less fortunate children for Christmas with her classmates in Junior Scouts. Also in Senior Scouts Mary Jo’s troop completed a course and qualified as nurses’ aides for the local hospital where she lived in New Mexico. She and one her friends in the troop went so often to volunteer that eventually they were doing regular nursing duties because it was during war time and there were few workers. When her oldest daughter was old enough to join Girl Scouts she became a troop leader and even volunteered as cookie chairwoman one year. Both of her daughters vividly remember the entire den filled with big brown boxes of cookies waiting to be separated into troop orders.

Dr Jacobs was a real “go-getter.” She led by example, working to achieve her goals, helping others and contributing to society. She was an athlete, with participation in sports over her lifetime. When Mary Jo was a junior in high school in 1946 she was awarded First Place in the school track meet for winning the most points of any other female for her performances in “hop-skip-jump,” soccer ball throw, baseball throw and “running broad jump.” Then, in college at Parkhill in Missouri, she was an All-Star and played all the club sports of speedball, volleyball, basketball and softball. It was not only the sports that attracted her to college but she was also very serious about her academic advancement as her dream since the age of 11 years old was to become a doctor. Therefore, she was active in many college clubs and took on leadership roles, worked on the school newspaper and graduated cum laude with a major in chemistry. During the three summers between college years, to earn money, Dr Jacobs worked as a wrangler at Cheley Camps in Estes Park, Colorado teaching horseback riding. With her love of the outdoors she was able to hike and backpack in the Rocky Mountains on her days off with other counselors who became lifelong friends.

**THE GIRL SCOUT PROMISE**

*On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country, To help people at all times, And to live by the Girl Scout Law.*

**THE GIRL SCOUT LAW**

*I will do my best to be Honest and fair, Friendly and helpful, Considerate and caring, Courageous and strong, and Responsible for what I say and do, And to Respect myself and others, Respect authority, Use resources wisely, Make the world a better place, and Be a sister to every Girl Scout.*



Dr Jacobs was accepted into the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia in 1951 which was an all women's school at the time. She learned about the school from a Life Magazine article and thought that the focus on the whole person, not just their disease was how she wanted to learn and practice the art of medicine. So, even though the school was far away from where she grew up and her family resided, she also wanted to see how life was lived in a part of the United States she had never been to. Tragically, her father died of a heart attack after only a few months into her freshman year of school. With much perseverance, she was able to work through all the challenges this huge loss brought with it for her and she graduated with her class in 1955.

One might guess that Dr Jacobs life was only filled with work, having chosen to pursue a career in family medicine. But she married a fellow doctor while working in her internship in Ohio and they enjoyed the outdoors with moves to Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and, finally, Glenwood Springs, Colorado in 1971 where they raised their four children (2 girls and 2 boys). Her enjoyment of outdoor activities was passed on to her children with family outings to hunt, fish, ride horses, camp, hike, ski and snowmobile.

Dr Jacobs drove back and forth from Glenwood Springs to Eagle three days a week for three years because Eagle did not have a doctor. She was welcomed with open arms by this community and met some wonderful people who became forever friends. In 1973 she moved her practice to Glenwood Springs and for 15 more years she saw patients, took on leadership roles at Valley View Hospital where she was the first woman physician on medical staff, acted as Garfield County Public Health Officer, filled roles on Governor appointed committees, invested in the public education of many women's health issues and also served as chairwoman of an important National Committee on Mine and Health Safety. Dr Jacobs was given many awards for her service over the years, all of which she was very humbled by. But probably the one she was most proud of was the "9 Who Care Award" for which she was nominated by her patients and colleagues as it was her patients for whom she dedicated the majority of her professional career, too.

In 1988 Dr Jacobs closed her office and went back to school. Who would have had the courage to make such a drastic move from CO to Berkley, CA for 2 more years of education? Dr Jacobs not only went to class full-time to obtain dual Masters Degrees in Public Policy and Health Policy but she also worked part-time for an urgent care clinic to support herself. Dr Jacobs returned to Colorado, but to Denver after graduate school and worked for the Kaiser physician group until she retired from clinical medical practice at the age of 76. She retired to Nevada for the warmer weather, lower altitude and abundance of outdoor activities. Unfortunately, her physical health deteriorated prematurely limiting her ability to do all the activities she loved to do and she passed away in Sept 2013 in Colorado with family at her bedside.

Mary Jo loved her family, her friends and her profession. She truly lived her life as a leader. She was energetic, loyal, nonjudgemental, thoughtful, trustworthy, responsible, modest, ethical, loving, generous and had an undying sense of duty to make the world a better place. In memory of all Mary Jo gave to others in so many ways, Mary Jo's children and her friends have established this Scholarship Fund to offer dedicated Girl Scouts of Garfield and Eagle counties the opportunity to experience the wonderful adventures of Girl Scout camp.

*1 Hands Around the World, International Friendship for Girl Scouts, Girl Scouts of the USA, copyright 1949, p. 49*