



Kinnelon and Riverdale residents to rappel down 10-story building in support of Girl Scouts

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SUBURBAN TRENDS

Two local residents will go to new heights in support of Girl Scouts this Saturday.

Dawn Johnson of Kinnelon and Justin Korinis of Riverdale will go "Over the Edge" on Sept. 19 and rappel down a 10-story building to raise money for Girl Scouts.

Sponsored by Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey, Over the Edge will feature the fundraising rappelling event and a day-long family festival. Seventy-five supporters are expected to raise the minimum \$1,000 for the thrill of rappelling down 1 Garret Mountain Plaza, Woodland Park. Attendees can watch the rappellers' descent and enjoy family activities, a rock climbing wall, obstacle courses, cookie decorating, entertainment, food trucks, and face painting.

Dawn Johnson, a Kinnelon mother and volunteer, said that she wants to help girls achieve greatness in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields.

Fire Protection, Life Safety, Security and Due Diligence Consultant for Tyco Simplex Grinnell, Johnson is a Girl Scout alumna who is passionate about the need to provide girls with opportunities to experience STEM. The founder and executive director of Collaborative Women in Construction, Johnson said the organization "recognizes how important it is to mentor and support programs that encourage our young professionals in the field of engineering, architecture and construction.

"Developing young minds is very important to the future," Johnson said. "Providing inner beauty, strength, skills, and expertise only makes the world a better, smarter and safer place."

Riverdale's Justin Korinis is always up for a challenge, especially if it can help a worthy cause. Korinis, a commercial real-estate broker with Savills Studley based in Hackensack, spent a lot of time rappelling as a teenager. When his wife, Krista, an avid Girl Scout volunteer and a member of the Board of Directors for Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey, asked him to go "Over the Edge," he readily signed up.

"My wife had a great experience with Girl Scouts growing up, and it helped her to be a successful entrepreneur as an adult," Korinis said. Because of that, he wanted to help raise money so other girls could have a similar experience.

"Girl Scouting teaches confidence and important lessons about independence," he said.

Besides, he jokes, "My wife has always wanted to throw me off the side of a building...for a good cause."

"We have a fun day planned for families who want to get outdoors, participate in adventurous activities as well, all while supporting Girl Scouting in northern New Jersey," said Betty Garger, president and chief executive officer of Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey.

Admission is \$18 per person after Sept. 10. Children under 3 years old are admitted free.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime adventure for adult thrill-seekers who love Girl Scouts and want to show their support by helping us to raise money for girls' leadership," said Garger.

Over the Edge, a special event company, will assist those rappelling, or "edgers" the entire way down. Anyone who wants to support GSNNJ is welcome to rappel as long as the participant is at least 18 years old, weighs between 110 and 300 pounds, and raises at least \$1,000. No prior experience or training is needed in order to register. The first 75 Edger spots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis until the event is full.

Proceeds will be used to help recruit, train, and retain volunteers who nurture, inspire and empower girls through program activities and adventures near and far.

"Girl Scouts helps girls learn 21st century skills and gain experience in STEM areas. Girls also learn about healthy relationships, participate in community service, and explore careers and the environment. In order to do this, we need public support," Garger said.

For more information about this fundraiser, visit gsnnj.org/overtheedge or call Jennifer Tanis, director of special events and alumnae relations, at 973-248-8200 or jtanis@gsnnj.org.

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