

## Alfred University students help Girl Scouts explore the sciences

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ALFRED, NY – More than 130 Girl Scouts, in grades kindergarten through 12, were on the Alfred University campus recently, taking part in an educational program and earning science-related badges.

The “Wild Side of Science” program, held Saturday, April 6, was sponsored by Alfred University’s chapter of Sigma Xi, the international scientific research honor society. A group of 131 Girl Scouts – Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, and Seniors – participated in activities supervised by a number of Alfred University student clubs.

Daisies learned about plants and the environment with the Bio Club, on their way to earning the new Eco Learner badge. The Chem Club helped Brownies earn the Home Scientist badge by performing experiments with density and electricity and making ice cream and slime.

Juniors explored air power while earning the new Balloon Car Design Challenge badge with assistance from engineering students in Tau Beta Pi, Keramos, Phi Kappa Phi, the Alfred Biomaterials Society, and Omicron Delta Kappa.

Cadettes completed the Animal Helpers badge with the PreVet Club and Guiding Eyes, while Seniors created inventive and challenging games to earn the Game Visionary badge with the Bio Club.

Sigma Xi was able to offer the program free of charge, thanks to an Outreach Grant awarded to Heather Zimbler-DeLoranzo, associate professor of biology, from the Animal Behavior Society. AmandaJo Young, a senior biology major at Alfred University, received an APEX (Applied and Experiential learning program) award to oversee the implementation of the Wild Side of Science program. The APEX program, which began at the beginning of the 2019 academic year, provides grant funding to help student defray the cost of research, study and work opportunities.

*In photo above, scouts from Wayland, NY, Brownie Troop 60349, from left – Ava Canfield (second grade), Gwen Richardson (third grade) and Madelyn Zimbler (second grade) – show off some of the slime they made during the Wild Side of Science program at Alfred University.*