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## GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUT ADDRESSES CHILD LITERACY

It's recommended that children read for 20 minutes each day to help develop their vocabulary and increase comprehension skills.

Unfortunately, for some students, resources aren't available to read outside of school.

When 18-year-old Gold Award Girl Scout Gabrielle M. discovered that many in her own community of North Plainfield don't have the opportunities to read, she decided to create the "Pajama Read to Me" program.

Through this program, a Take Action Project created to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award, Gabrielle contributed to lowering childhood illiteracy rates by encouraging young children's interest in and access to books. She created well-researched curricula that included a featured story and related crafts that together helped children become more competent, confident readers in both English and Spanish. She hosted 18 sessions of "Pajama Read to Me" at the Plainfield Public Library, the Bergen County Library, and HomeFirst, a shelter in Plainfield. She adapted her curriculum to meet the individual needs of the students in each session, sometimes hosting large groups, sometimes working one-on-one. Each session's theme was uniquely created, and also included dispersal of pajamas and reading materials that she received when soliciting donations to support her project.

"I created this program to put the issue of child literacy on the front burner in my community," she said. "It helps to promote confidence and passion in children's reading and learning through a fun and engaging program."

The Gold Award is the pinnacle of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and the most prestigious award a Girl Scout can earn.

Gabrielle's passion for books, reading, and learning in general ignited her project that helped to provide young students with the education and learning opportunities that she was afforded as a child.

"I wanted to target the children of my community who lacked the resources or the stimulating environment," Gabrielle added. "They need an equal opportunity for success."

To continue her efforts, Gabrielle has created instructions for other libraries and shelters to implement her program. As a result of her work, HomeFirst created a library/reading center at their site, and the North Plainfield Library will renew the program each year.

Gabrielle has been a part of Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ) Troop 65380 for the past 13 years. She said Girl Scouts is a wonderful service opportunity that allows her to



(above, left) During the "Pajama Read to Me" program, Gabrielle reads to children and does a craft associated with the story. (above, right) Girl Scout Gabrielle M. earned her Gold Award through her creation of the "Pajama Read to Me" program.



partner with the young women in her community to spark positive change.

She is a graduating senior at Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung.

"Gabrielle's pursuit of the Gold Award creates the opportunity for children in her community to have access and exposure to a positive reading environment for years to come," said GSHNJ CEO Natasha Hemmings. "Our Gold Award is the mark of the truly remarkable. We are so proud of Gabrielle."

Photos by Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey

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## NJROTC ANNUAL MILITARY INSPECTION

With the events of Covid-19 and the shift of classes online for the remainder of the school year, the JROTC classroom continues during these times. Regretfully, all social gatherings such as drill competitions and ceremonies have been cancelled for this school year. However, JROTC cadets still stand strong as we continue our interactive classes online, as we finish up this school year!

This upcoming summer of 2020, cadets were accepted into multiple programs, devoted to helping cadets learn leadership skills. Congratulations to Cadet Lieutenant JG Christina Aguilar and Cadet Lieutenant JG Ashley Dawsey for getting accepted into Girl's State, a respected

program dedicated to developing young women into future leaders. Congratulations to Cadet Master Chief Petty Officer John Vargas and Cadet Lieutenant Daisy Cifuentes for getting accepted into Leadership Academy/Sail Training, an intensive program dedicated to teaching interactive STEM courses to cadets with leadership skills.

As for the graduating class of 2020, many of these cadets are unable to experience the highly anticipated JROTC events such as the Navy Ball. Thankfully, this upcoming school year current cadets and returning officers that have graduated are still able to experience another Navy Ball, as they are highly encouraged to attend!



(above) North Plainfield High School's NJROTC Annual Military Inspection 2020

## CONGRATULATIONS TO NORTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020



(above) North Plainfield High School class of 2020 gathered for a group photo in October 2019 on the NPHS football field.

Photo by NPHS

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## SOMERSET COUNTY SHERIFF'S AND FOB TEAM-UP FOR ANIMAL SHELTER DONATION

The Somerset County Sheriff's Office, FOP Lodge 39 and FOP Lodge 89 recently came together to support the Somerset Regional Animal Shelter in Bridgewater. Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the shelter has been

facing hard times, with limited resources. On Wednesday, April 22nd, the officers personally delivered multiple bags of food, as well as \$620 cash to help take care of the sheltered animals awaiting adoption.



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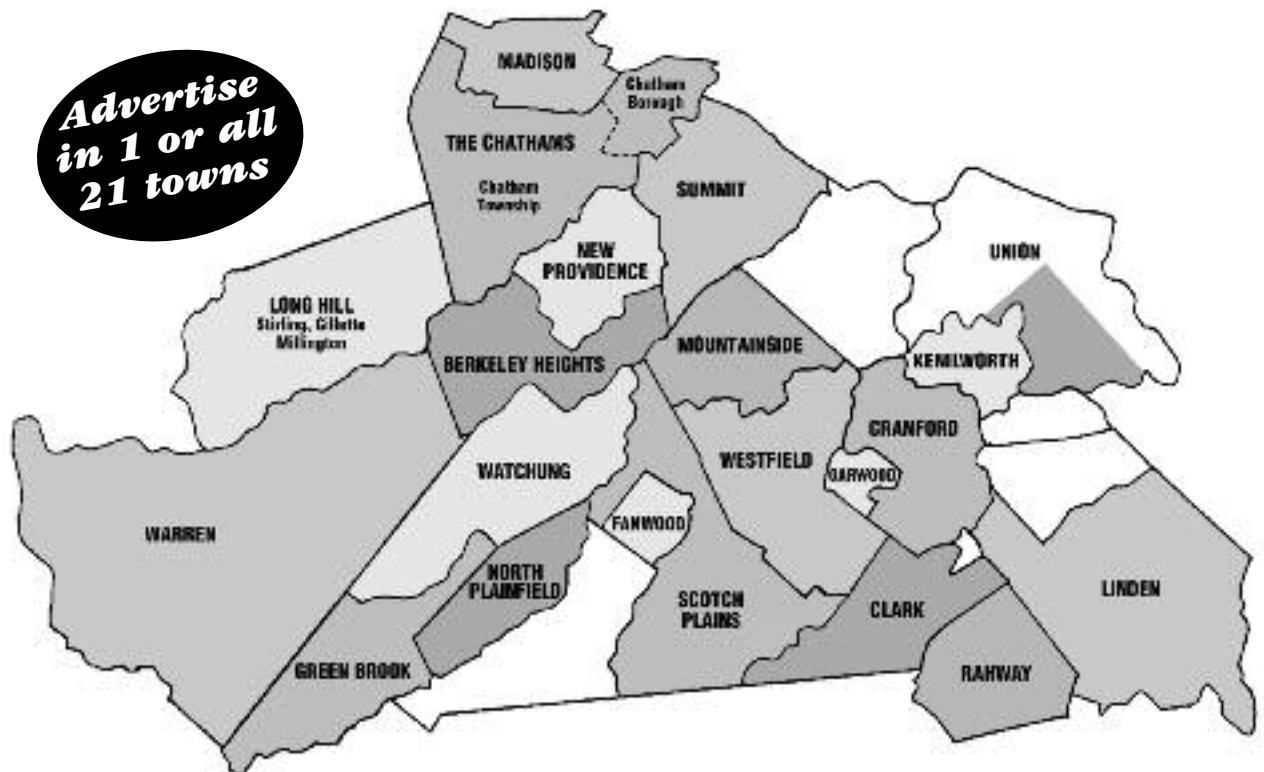


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# GUIDE RIGHT PROGRAM LEADS LOCAL KAPPA LEAGUERS TO NORTHEASTERN PROVINCE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

*Submitted by Willie Vick*

In February 2020, high school male students of the PAC Kappa League from North Plainfield, Plainfield, and Colonia joined 350+ other Northeast Region high school young men from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Delaware at the 2020 Northeastern Province Kappa League Leadership Conference at Westchester Community College, Vallhalla, NY. The themed "Educating & Training for Leadership" Guide Right Conference highlighted seminars in academic excellence, STEM/digital literacy and coding, dining/grooming etiquette, health and wellness, financial literacy, mental health, and police relations.

The conference featured Keynote Speaker Billionaire Entrepreneur Michael V. Roberts, JD, author of his book series "Action Has No Season: Strategies and Secrets to Gaining Wealth and

Authority" and Royce Russell, Esq., who specializes in Criminal Defense, False Arrest/Police Brutality, Immigration, Contracts, Employment Law and Trademark, author of his book "Cardiac Arrest". Both men were huge supporters of all the potential, goals, and achievements in each young participant. Many of the young Kappa League students were glad to have attended the conference and expressed their appreciation for an eye-opening experience.

The Guide Right Kappa League Program provides leadership skills and assistance to male youth as they transition in and out of high school. It is a year-round high school program for incoming Fall 9th through 12th grade boys, dedicated to the educational and occupational guidance of young men, primarily inspirational and informational in character.

Guide Right is the national community service and mentoring program of Kappa Alpha Psi

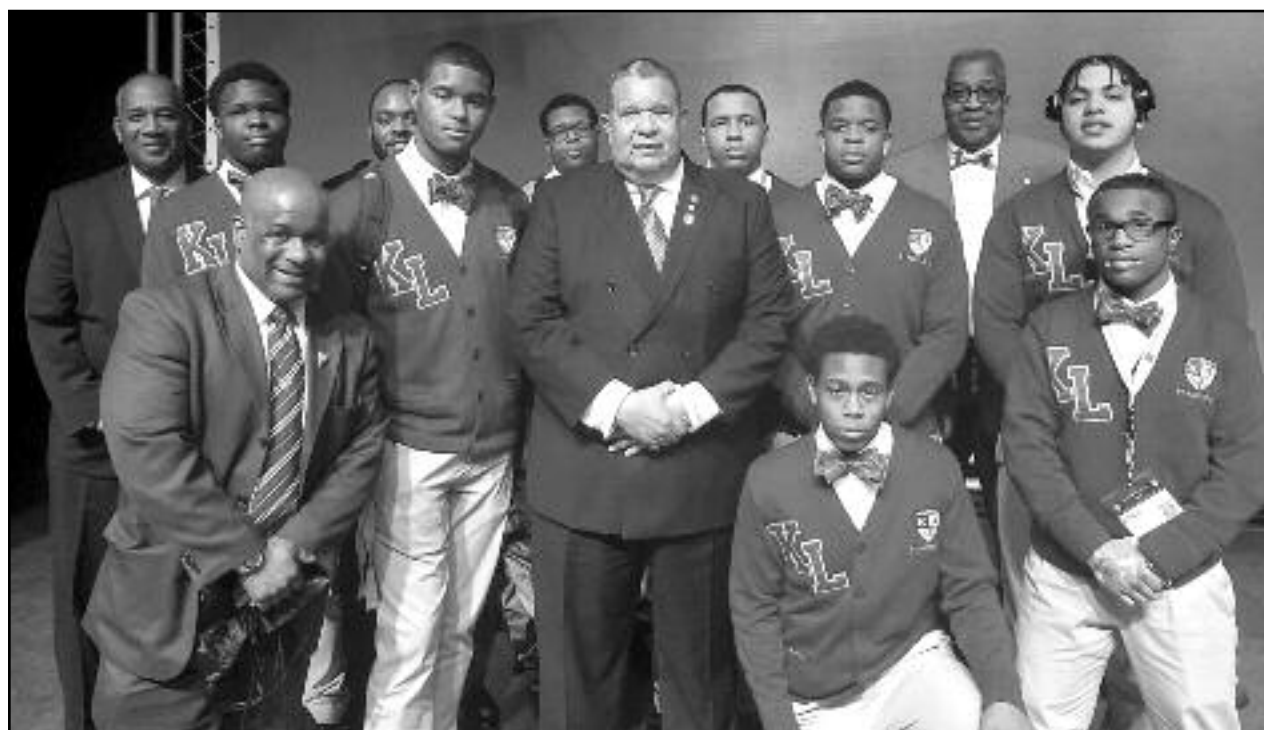
Fraternity, Inc. Since its inception, the objective of Guide Right is to provide leadership and assistance to the youth of the communities it serves.

For more information about PAC Kappa League, visit [pacnupes.com/pac-kappa-league](http://pacnupes.com/pac-kappa-league). Follow PAC Kappa League on Instagram @pacnjkappaleague and Facebook at pacnjkappaleague.

## COUNTY CENSUS HOST WINTERFEST 2020



*(above) At the 2020 Northeastern Province Kappa League Leadership Conference, participants learned leadership skills and attended seminars in academic excellence, STEM/digital literacy and coding, dining/grooming etiquette, health and wellness, financial literacy, mental health, and police relations.*



*(above) High school male students of the PAC Kappa League from North Plainfield, Plainfield, and Colonia joined 350+ other Northeast Region high school young men at the 2020 Northeastern Province Kappa League Leadership Conference.*



After having a great time at the last Winterfest, the Somerset County Census 2020 and North Plainfield High School decided to team up again to present Winterfest 2020. This free family fun winter carnival was held on Saturday, February 22 at North Plainfield High School, and was open to all community members.

Games and activities were provided for children, including an Arts & Crafts section, face painting, a DJ, and free pizza. The day also included information about Census 2020, as well as job opportunities, and chances to connect with community resources.

*Photos from this and other events can be found online at [rennamedia.com](http://rennamedia.com) and on The Pride of North Plainfield page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)*

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