

Gold Award

2022–2023 Yearbook



Dear Gold Award Recipients,

Congratulations! You made it! You have achieved the highest honor in Girl Scouting.

As a Gold Award recipient, you are a part of an elite group of women. Since 1916, Girl Scouts have been given the opportunity to earn this prestigious award, and those who completed the journey have changed their own lives and the lives of others in amazing and significant ways. The leadership skills, organizational competence, and sense of community and commitment that come from “Going for the Gold” sets the foundation for a lifetime of active citizenship.

I see a very bright future for each of you. Today is a great day to be a girl. As a Gold Award Girl Scout, you know that you can become anything you desire to be and do anything you set your mind to do. As you make your way, it is my hope that you appreciate all the opportunities you have today and that you take your seat at the community leadership table. Say yes – to going to college, to traveling abroad, to running for office, to starting a new business, to anything that will make you happy and fulfilled. When barriers arise, remember that you are a Girl Scout. You have the courage, the confidence, and the character to tackle anything. You are prepared to change the world and we cannot wait to see what your future holds.

Despite of these uncertain times, you have persevered. It is my hope that in many years you will be able to look back at this time in your life and celebrate your resiliency and the memories you made.

Always remember that you are very special. **You are Solid Gold!**

Yours in Girl Scouting,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paula Bookidis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paula Bookidis
Chief Executive Officer

2022-2023 Gold Award Recipients




Bold, driven, and passionate. Girl Scouts were changing the world long before women earned the right to vote, and today we continue to engage and empower girls to take the reins of female leadership and create a positive impact wherever their journey takes them.

A Gold Award Girl Scout is everything a Girl Scout should aspire to become. She exemplifies courage, confidence, and character. As rare as she is remarkable, a Gold Award Girl Scout is a true leader. Resourceful, thoughtful, engaged, and responsible, she recognizes critical issues in her community and welcomes the challenge to create meaningful and lasting change. A Gold Award Girl Scout's impact is far reaching and knows no borders.

 Denotes the achievement of all three Highest Awards: Bronze, Silver, and Gold.




Amy Salas
Austin, TX

 **Crafty Camping** - Amy's Gold Award Project, *Crafty Camping*, addressed the importance of arts and crafts during the developmental stages of childhood. Her project provides camps with on-the-go crafting projects, complete with training and instructional videos and printable resources for current and future crafts.

“Girl Scouts gave me friends, fun, and educational activities that taught me about leadership.”



Anna Brown
Round Rock, TX

 **Round Rock Day Camp** - Anna's Gold Award Project, *Round Rock Day Camp*, helped her community by addressing the lack of easily accessible day camp opportunities for Girl Scouts in her area. Anna's day camp and curriculum focused on the importance of outdoor and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) related life skills.

“Through Girl Scouts I have been able to travel, practice my outdoor skills, meet new people, and grow as a person.”



Aria Merchant
Austin, TX

Promoting Creativity - Aria's Gold Award Project, *Promoting Creativity*, made an impact in her community by raising awareness toward the lack of appreciation and promotion of the creative arts. Aria created an art show focused on providing an opportunity for any young artist to be recognized and appreciated for their artistic passions.

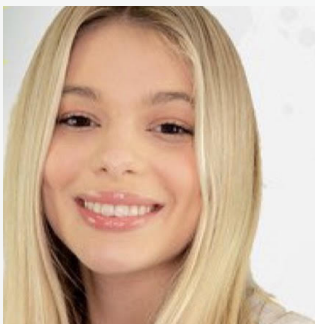
“Girl Scouts has taught me teamwork, leadership skills, and has shown me how to make a difference in my community.”



Bela Jere
Austin, TX

Social Justice Club and Week - Bela's Gold Award Project, *Social Justice Club and Week*, addresses the importance of inclusivity. Her club provides a safe space for students to learn about today's social justice issues and cultural assimilation while becoming more self-aware of implicit biases and the need for education and creative change.

“Girl Scouts has increased my courage, leadership experience, and my ability to speak up about matters that I care about.”




Bella Becker
Lakeway, TX

Bella's Birthday Boxes - Bella's Gold Award Project, *Bella's Birthday Boxes*, helped her community by addressing the lack of opportunity for disadvantaged youth to celebrate their birthday. Bella's donation drives were used as a way to educate the community regarding the current demographic and to gain support for her cause.

“Girl Scouts has given me the courage to take chances.”



Caroline Grant
The Hills, TX

 **Butterflies for Butterflies** - Caroline's Gold Award Project, *Butterflies for Butterflies*, made an impact in her community by raising awareness for issues surrounding children's mental health and anxiety while at therapy or a physician's office. Caroline's project combats situational anxiety by creating open air butterfly gardens that improve stress through their sights, smells, and colors.

“Girl Scouts gave me the opportunity to use my personal abilities, learn new skills, work collaboratively to accomplish our goals, and to be of service to others.”



Emily Chase
Austin, TX

 **STEM Education Resources** - Emily's Gold Award Project, *STEM Education Resources*, addressed the lack of fun educational opportunities and resources for young students. Emily created STEM programming and activities that are age appropriate and readily available for students to check out through their school library.

“Girl Scouts sparked my interest in engineering by providing me with the opportunity to learn about various STEM fields from a young age.”



Hannah Nissen
Austin, TX

 **Essentials for Immigrant Families** Hannah's Gold Award Project, *Essentials for Immigrant Families*, helped her community by addressing the need for sustainable beds for families in need. Hannah developed a multi-faceted building plan to allow immigrant families with limited resources to successfully build beds to meet their needs.

“Girl Scouts helped me from a young age learn how to socialize, work in a team, challenge myself, and to become a leader.”




Kavita Kohli
Austin, TX

 **Fostering Interest in Math in Kids** - Kavita's Gold Award Project, *Fostering Interest in Math in Kids*, made an impact in her community by providing interactive, and entertaining math resources. Kavita created videos and tutorials to encourage younger students to try math outside of their normal, stressful, school environment.

“Girl Scouts helped me find and connect with a community of incredible people.”



Lahari Suraparaju
Austin, TX

 **Hospital Card Games** - Lahari's Gold Award Project, *Hospital Card Games*, addressed how pediatric patients can sometimes feel uncomfortable or out of control during their first visit to a hospital. To help provide a more comfortable transition, Lahari created cards to help familiarize children to their new surroundings while gaining knowledge of their current environment.

“Girl Scouts helped me improve my communication, time management, problem solving, public speaking, and presentation skills.”




Maria Martinez Ramirez
Austin, TX

Tree ID Post Renewal - Maria's Gold Award Project, *Tree ID Post Renewal*, helped her community by replacing the hazardous posts and debris located in her city park. Maria's project provided a base for plaques at each tree allowing the community to take a self-guided, interactive tour where they learn about the different trees and history of the park.

"Girl Scouts has allowed me to be more confident in myself and grow as a person and has given me opportunities to help those around me."



Marin Acuna
Spicewood, TX

 **Providing Support to America's Preschools** - Marin's Gold Award Project, *Providing Support to America's Preschools*, made an impact in her community by creating a comprehensive blueprint for support of today's preschools. Marin's project supports preschools with a framework for volunteer support as well as multiple cataloging systems.

"Girl Scouts has taught me leadership skills, self-determination, responsibility, and compassion for the world around me."



Meghana Singireddy
Austin, TX

Anemia Awareness - Meghana's Gold Award Project, *Anemia Awareness*, promoted the risks of iron deficiency anemia in teenage girls. Meghana created presentation tools and hosted multiple workshops to promote the importance of recognizing symptoms and how to be proactive with your health.

"Girl Scouts taught me how to become optimistic, a role model, and a kinder person to both myself and others."




Neela Kolte
Austin, TX

Draw a Crowd with Digital Art - Neela's Gold Award Project, *Draw a Crowd with Digital Art*, helped her community by addressing the struggle for young artists to transition from traditional art to digital art. Neela's digital art lessons taught foundational skills and were easily accessible and digestible for artists of all ages.

"Girl Scouts has given me a lifelong community of friends and the opportunity to grow with so many people."



Nicola Kallenbach
Austin, TX

 **Book Bench Benefitting Economically Disadvantaged Students** - Nicola's Gold Award Project, *Book Bench Benefitting Economically Disadvantaged Students*, made an impact in her community by facilitating the flow of free books to families in need. By making a book bench Nicola created a sustainable location for books to be donated, collected, and then redistributed.

“Girl Scouts has provided many opportunities to give back and get involved with my community.”



Oluwafunto Matilda Olorundare
Austin, TX

Breaking Barriers Project - Oluwafunto's Gold Award Project, *Breaking Barriers Project*, addressed the language barriers around cultural activities at school presented to new students from non-English speaking homes. Oluwafunto created videos regarding vital school assets and procedures, such as emergency drills, and school resources, and had them translated into multiple languages for students to utilize.

“Girl Scouts has encouraged me to believe in myself and my abilities.”




Paige Meakin
Austin, TX

Connecting Kids to Nature - Paige's Gold Award Project, *Connecting Kids to Nature*, helped her community by addressing the decline in use and functionality of an outdoor equipment trailer used for camping. Paige made updates, created education materials, interactive lesson plans, and a check-out system to increase utilization.

“Being a Girl Scout has helped me build confidence and improve my leadership abilities.”



Regina Evans
Bellville, TX

 **Breast Cancer Awareness** - Regina's Gold Award Project, *Breast Cancer Awareness*, made an impact by educating her community about the importance and benefits of early detection and screening. Regina raised awareness by creating an audio and visual Public Service Announcement and through speaking engagements at various community engagements.

“Girl Scouts has helped me open up to people and be more confident in my people skills.”




Riley Sandhop
College Station, TX

A New Page - Riley's Gold Award Project, *A New Page*, addressed the lack of educational and entertaining reading resources provided for non-English speaking minorities. Riley's project raised awareness of this need and worked to have Spanish language reading resources for children and adults donated to a local library.

"Girl Scouts has taught me how to look at issues from several perspectives, how to tackle problems, and how those issues affect me or my community."




Rowan Poprik
College Station, TX

 **Art Therapy for Teenagers and Young Adults** - Rowan's Gold Award Project, *Art Therapy for Teenagers and Young Adults*, helped her community by addressing the issue of poor mental health in teenagers and young adults. Rowan's presentation to students explained the benefits of art therapy as a de-stressor and had participants come together to create a collective mural from their individual art.

"Girl Scouts has given me friends and skills that will last a lifetime."




Ryley Prout
Pflugerville, TX

 **Armrest Benches with Disability Accommodations** - Ryley's Gold Award Project, *Armrest Benches with Disability Accommodations*, made an impact in her community by addressing the need for seating options for individuals with disabilities. Ryley created instructions on how to build affordable and easily customizable benches for those with special needs.

"Girl Scouts has given me opportunities that have helped me learn new skills and build my confidence as an individual."



Simoni Khare
Austin, TX

 **Bloop Cares** - Simoni's Gold Award Project, *Bloop Cares*, addressed the lack of education on environmental topics in elementary schools. Simoni personally wrote and illustrated a children's book depicting the dangers of littering and the importance of environmental stewardship that she then presented both virtually and in person to elementary students.

"Girl Scouts has allowed me to explore causes I am passionate about and provided encouragement to solve them."



Simran Carl
Cedar Park, TX

Honoring the Missing Man - Simran's Gold Award Project, *Honoring the Missing Man*, helped her community by raising awareness of soldiers who are prisoners of war or missing in action. Simran worked to educate members of the community and surrounding schools through presentations and the distribution of self-made Missing Man kits.

“Girl Scouts has made a big impact on my life. It has taught me how to cooperate and work with a large group of diverse girls.”



Starla Whitlow
Lorena, TX

Renovating Gym Body and Spirit - Starla's Gold Award Project, *Renovating Gym Body and Spirit*, made an impact in her community by bridging the gap between community and church. Starla's project focused on the renovation of an outdoor basketball court with supplemental curriculum that focused on spiritual growth, teamwork, conflict resolution, and problem-solving skills.

“Girl Scouts has given me the opportunity to broaden my knowledge about the world.”



Tulsi Joglekar
Austin, TX

Signal School - Tulsi's Gold Award Project, *Signal School*, addressed computer illiteracy and a lack of technology awareness in migrant children in Thane, India. Tulsi worked to provide computer equipment and specifically curated lesson plans that showcased how to comprehend and adequately understand computers and computer technology.

“Girl Scouts has allowed me to expand my horizons and has been a crucial part of my life.”



Zoe Zaman
Dripping Springs, TX

 **Together We Can Grow a Forest!** - Zoe's Gold Award Project, *Together We Can Grow a Forest!*, helped her community by raising awareness regarding the rapidly diminishing plants and trees and their effect on climate change. Zoe hosted giveaways and created videos along with supplemental materials outlining the importance of replenishing native plants.

“Girl Scouts has provided a long-term opportunity for friendship, community service, leadership, and personal growth.”



“What we say and what we do ultimately comes back to us so let us own our responsibility, place it in our hands, and carry it with dignity and strength.” – Gloria Anzaldua

Amy,

You are a gift and an inspiration to your Girl Scout sisters in Troop 2959. We celebrate your accomplishments and thank you for giving us a new perspective on the world around us. Your quiet presence, wit, creativity and story telling have made a lasting impact on each of us. We feel privileged to have shared this Girl Scout experience with you. We are so very proud of you.

—The Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors, leaders & parents of Troop 2959.

Marin,

We are super proud of you for working so hard to earn GOLD! This is just the beginning of the accomplishments you’ll achieve in life! We love you so much! Congratulations! You did it!



Love,

Mom Lynda, Dad Rob, and Maeve & Myles Acuna



Congratulations to the 2022-2023 GSCTX Gold Award Girl Scouts!

We are so proud of you!

- GSCTX Board of Directors



Simran,

We are so proud of your 12 years of dedication to being a Girl Scout! You have embraced every opportunity Girl Scouts has offered with enthusiasm. From cookie sales to travel, from scuba diving to being a National Convention delegate, you have grown with every experience. You have developed as a confident leader through earning your Silver and Gold awards. You have demonstrated commitment to your community through your volunteering. You have shown courage to try things outside of your comfort zone. It's been wonderful to see you incorporate these qualities in all facets of your life. You are loyal to your friends and family, passionate in your convictions, and unafraid to speak up when you see an injustice. We are so very proud of who you have become as a person and can't wait to see how you take on the world. We love you!

**Mom, Dad, Anjali, Ammama,
Nani and Pop. And of course,
Jonsey.**





The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. — Eleanor Roosevelt

Meghana,

We celebrate your accomplishments and the work you have done to make our world better. Your dedication to intellectual growth, community service and health education for teens is commendable and an inspiration to your Girl Scout sisters. We are so very proud of you.

—The Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors, leaders & parents of Troop 2959.



**Congratulations
to the
2022-2023 GSCTX
Gold Award
Girl Scouts!**

Gold Award Committee

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Regional Programs Manager, GSCTX

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