GSUSA Award Descriptions

GSUSA Volunteer of Excellence
The Volunteer of Excellence award recognizes those volunteers who have contributed outstanding service while partnering directly with girls in any pathway to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through use of the national program portfolio or who have contributed outstanding service in support of the Council’s mission delivery to girl and adult members.

- Submit one (1) nomination form and two (2) letters of endorsement stating the candidate’s outstanding service to the Council. The letters of endorsement must be completed by someone other than the person submitting the nomination.

Criteria for Selection:
- Be an adult member registered with GSUSA and is a volunteer.
- The candidate has successfully completed a term of service and all requirements for the position.
- Contributes significantly to meeting the Council’s goals and objectives.
- The candidate has performed beyond expectations for the position to deliver the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to girls using the national program portfolio or the candidate’s performance has been beyond the expectations of the position and has supported Council’s mission-delivery goals in one or more of the following functional areas: Membership Development, Community Cultivation, Volunteer Relations and Support, Program, Leadership and Governance, Fund Development, and Council Support Service.
- The candidate actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behavior.

Possible candidates for the GSUSA Volunteer of Excellence include:
- A volunteer Program Advisor who works with a teen advisory committee to plan and deliver several performance day camps in underserved areas of the Council, using content from the aMuse Journey. Their efforts result in an increased retention rate for currently registered girls, an increase in new girl members and adult volunteers, and increased awareness of the many pathway opportunities available to girls.
- A Service Unit Event Coordinator organizes and executes four area wide events that are attended by a total of 300 girls and 10% of the girls in attendance are new to Girl Scouts.
- A Service Unit Cookie Manager who found a new drop site for cookies which made delivery and sorting easier which allowed for better use of volunteers’ time and effort. She also maintained a cookie cupboard at her residence throughout the cookie sale.

GSUSA Appreciation Pin
The Appreciation Pin recognizes an individual’s exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. This service, which has had measureable impact on one or more communities, geographic areas, or service units within the council jurisdiction, allows the council to reach and surpass its mission-delivery goals. This award recognizes outstanding service performed, above and beyond the expectations of the position held, and delivered to at least one area of the Council.

- Submit one (1) nomination form and two (2) letters of endorsement stating the candidate’s outstanding service to the Council. The letters of endorsement must be completed by someone other than the person submitting the nomination.

Criteria for Selection:
- Be an adult member registered with GSUSA and is a volunteer.
- Be trained for the position held or have equivalent experience.
- Perform service beyond the expectations for the position held to the extent that warrants Council recognition.
- The candidate’s service has a measureable impact on one or more communities, geographic areas, or service units within the council jurisdiction, allows the council to reach and surpass its mission-delivery goals.
Possible candidates for the GSUSA Appreciation Pin include:

- A Troop Leader, when attending an event, noticed that the diversity of the girls did not match the diversity of the community. She worked with Council staff to identify potential underserved areas in her community and then partnered with her Service Unit team and Council staff to create and implement recruitment strategies to reach both girls and adults in those underserved areas. As a result girl and adult membership increased in the targeted areas.
- Service Unit Director who has provided outstanding service for several years and/or has significantly surpasses membership and diversity goals.
- Product Sales Coordinator who has consistently conducted an extraordinarily successful cookie sale in a service unit.
- Delegate to the Council Annual meeting who significantly enhanced the work of the Council.
- Volunteer who directed a successful area-wide day camp or program event.

**GSUSA Honor Pin**

The Honor Pin recognizes a volunteer who has previously received the Appreciation Pin and has given exemplary service which has had measurable impact on two or more communities, geographic areas, or service units within the council jurisdiction, allowing the Council to reach and surpass its mission-delivery goals.

- Submit one (1) nomination form and three (3) letters of endorsement stating the candidate’s outstanding service to the Council. The letters of endorsement must be completed by someone other than the person submitting the nomination.

**Criteria for Selection:**

- Be an adult member registered with GSUSA and is a volunteer.
- Be trained for the position held or have equivalent experience.
- Perform service beyond the expectations for the position held to the extent that warrants Council recognition.
- Contribute significantly to meeting the Council's goals and objectives.
- The service performed by the candidate is above and beyond the expectations for the position held and made an impact on two or more communities, geographic areas, or service units within the Council jurisdiction.
- Candidate is past recipient of the Appreciation Pin.

Possible candidates for the GSUSA Honor Pin include:

- A volunteer who for the past three years has successfully directed a day camp which served multiple Service Units. She recruited a planning committee to expand the variety of activities for day camp sessions, resulting in an increase in girl enrolment and increased volunteer participation.
- A volunteer who manages excellent training, enrichment and leadership development sessions to volunteers working directly with girls in two or more pathways.
- A volunteer who has served on several Council committees in an exceptional capacity that benefited two or more areas of the Council.
- Board member being recognized for exceptional work on fund development that benefited the entire Council.

**GSUSA Thanks Badge**

The Thanks Badge honors an individual whose ongoing commitment, leadership, and service have had an exceptional, measurable impact on meeting the mission-delivery goals and priorities of the entire Council or the entire Girl Scout Movement.

This award recognizes a volunteer for the outstanding service given that benefits the entire Council, or the Girl Scout organization, and is so significantly above and beyond the call of duty, that no other award would be appropriate. A candidate for this award must be a past recipient of the GSUSA Honor Pin.

- Submit one (1) nomination form and four (4) letters of endorsement stating the candidate’s outstanding service to the Council. The letters of endorsement must be completed by someone other than the person submitting the nomination.
Criteria for Selection:
• Be an adult member registered with GSUSA and is a volunteer.
• Be trained for the position held or have equivalent experience.
• Contribute significantly to meeting the Council's goals and objectives.
• Service performed by the candidate is of benefit to the entire Council or the Girl Scout organization.
• Perform service that is so outstanding that is significantly above and beyond the call of duty and no other award would be appropriate.
• Candidate is a past recipient of the Honor Pin.

Possible candidates for the GSUSA Thanks Badge include:
• Volunteer who has served on several council committees in an exceptional capacity and whose on-going commitment and work results in exceptional, measurable impact on meeting the mission-delivery goals of the entire Council, or the entire Girl Scout Movement.
• A volunteer who, over a period of time, supervises a Council wide encampment or event resulting in membership retention and continuous delivery of Girl Scout program.
• A volunteer who initiates and successfully manages the extension of Girl Scouting to underserved populations and increases opportunities for underserved girls throughout the Council.
• A Council Board member who does exceptional work on fund development that benefits the entire Council and results in greater financial stability for the Council.

GSUSA Thanks Badge II
The Thanks Badge II honors a previous Thanks Badge award recipient who has continued to provide exemplary service in a leadership role, resulting in a measurable impact that benefits the entire Council or the entire Girl Scout Movement.
• Submit one (1) nomination form and four (4) letters of endorsement stating the candidate’s outstanding service to the Council. The letters of endorsement must be completed by someone other than the person submitting the nomination.

Criteria for Selection:
• Be an adult member registered with GSUSA and is a volunteer.
• Be trained for the position held or have equivalent experience.
• Contribute significantly to meeting the Council's goals and objectives.
• Service performed by the candidate is of benefit to the entire Council or the Girl Scout organization.
• Service performed by the candidate surpasses earlier achievement of the Thanks Badge.
• Candidate is a past recipient of the Thanks Badge.

Possible candidates for the GSUSA Thanks Badge include:
• A Council Board member who does exceptional work on fund development that benefits the entire Council and results in meeting the goals of the Council.
• A volunteer who, after many successful Council wide events, went on to plan and direct a statewide or regional learning event.
• A volunteer who successfully influenced retention and quality programs, within the Girl Scouts of Central Texas, shares that delivery system with other Councils throughout GSUSA.
• The chair of a strategic planning committee whose leadership inspired a pluralistic, visionary plan for the Council.
• A Council Board member whose continuous strong leadership in fund development has resulted in greater financial stability for the Council.

GSUSA Years of Service
The Years of Service pins recognize adults for active volunteer service to Girl Scouting. Years of Service Pins are available in five-year intervals (10 years and above) to recognize adult membership and service to Girl Scouts.
(Does not include years spent as a girl in Girl Scouts)
• Submit one (1) nomination form.
Criteria for Selection:
- Be an adult member registered with GSUSA and is a volunteer.
- Has been a registered active volunteer for a minimum of 10 years.

Possible candidates for the Years of Service Pin include:
- A registered adult volunteer who has actively given service to the Girl Scouts for a period of ten years or more.