



Gold Award 2023-2024 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" set 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 these changing 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,

Paula Bookidis

Chief Executive Officer

2023-2024 Gold Award Recipients





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



Alexandra Graf Round Rock, TX

Seeds for Schooling - Alexandra's Gold Award project, Seeds for Schooling, encouraged students to explore ecology and conservation, demonstrating how youth can positively impact the world. Alexandra built a school garden, launched a school ecology club, and created videos and lesson plans to educate students on environmental issues and promote greater local change.

Growing up in Girl Scouts has vitally shaped how I tackle every day and large-scale challenges.



Ashlyn Scott San Angelo, TX

Lap Blankets for Elders - Ashlyn's Gold Award project, *Lap Blankets for Elders*, helped her community by addressing the lack of heating in low-income homes of local elderly residents. Ashlyn worked with her team to create handmade stocking caps and lap blankets and partnered with the local Meals for the Elderly to distribute them to neighbors in need.

Thanks to the Girl Scout leadership experience I better understand the importance of taking responsibility, persevering, and being active in my local community.



Ayesha Haider Austin, TX

I Can Be an Engineer!! - Ayesha's Gold Award project, *I Can Be an Engineer!!*, helped her community by connecting female mentors in engineering to girls interested in pursuing a career in a similar field. Ayesha hosted workshops to simultaneously foster connections between female engineers and local youth while collaborating on projects related to civil and electrical engineering.

Girl Scouts has given me the opportunity to learn how to be independent and more confident in my abilities.



Bethany Butler Austin, TX

The Pollinator Garden Project - Bethany's Gold Award project, *The Pollinator Garden Project*, addressed the lack of education and action around the declining population of pollinators in Texas. Bethany raised awareness by hosting an educational class, posting educational resources in and around her community, and curating two pollinator gardens to increase the available food sources for local pollinators.

Girl Scouts has made a difference in my life through the lessons I've learned, the experiences I've gained, and the service I've performed in my community.



Brooke PerryRound Rock, TX

Experience Dance - Brooke's Gold Award project, *Experience Dance*, impacted her community by creating a sustainable opportunity for children in emergency foster care to have free access to an extracurricular activity, dance. Brooke's lessons shared the joy of dance while boosting participants' confidence in a fun and interactive atmosphere.

Girl Scouts
has given me
a space for
growth, service,
and creating
friendships.



Danae Levin Lakeway, TX

Better with Books - Danae Levin's Gold Award project, *Better with Books*, made an impact in her community by combating the rise in teen technology usage. Danae addressed the decline in teen reading by creating an interactive hybrid teen book club with both in-person and virtual options to provide accessibility and flexibility for teens, while encouraging interest in reading outside of school.

Girl Scouts helped me learn how to manage my time, build friendships, and take care of the environment.



Eleanor EwingAustin, TX

Epinephrine Access in Texas Schools Eleanor Ewing's Gold Award project, Epinephrine Access in Texas Schools, aimed to ensure timely treatment of serious and lifethreatening allergic reactions by requiring Texas schools to keep epinephrine on their premises. Eleanor worked with a state representative to require schools to stock epinephrine and educated school districts regarding the opportunity to stock free EpiPens.

Girl Scouts has taught me valuable leadership skills and self-confidence.



Elsbeth WickesCollege Station, TX

The World of Adaptive Sports - Elsbeth's Gold Award project, *The World of Adaptive Sports*, helped her community by addressing the lack of activities for individuals with adaptive needs. Elsbeth successfully created two videos, the first highlighted a local adaptive sport and athlete, the second provided a series of adaptive exercises for participants. She also provided tools for adaptive athletes to support their individual successes.

Girl Scouts has given me the opportunity to make new friends, try new things, and grow into a leader.



Grace DroddyBryan, TX

Music Enrichment for Memory Care - Grace Droddy's Gold Award project, Music Enrichment for Memory Care, made an impact in her community through her collaboration with memory care facilities to improve the quality of life for patients with severe dementia or Alzheimer's. Grace created easily accessible playlists of music and videos for memory care residents to spark their memories and bring joy to their lives.

Through
Girl Scouts I
gained lifelong
friendships and
the opportunity
to try new things
that I would not
have otherwise
been able to do.



Hailey HudsonCollege Station, TX

Make A Stand Rescue - Hailey Hudson's Gold Award project, *Make A Stand Rescue*, addressed the misconceptions surrounding pit bulls as a breed, their high energy levels, and the canine group's learning style. Hailey created four informational videos with valuable information about the breed's strengths, stubbornness, aggression levels, as well as providing training and ownership tips.

Through Girl Scouts I've gained valuable leadership and teamwork skills as well as time and money management skills.



Jada Edwards Lockhart, TX

Cub Garden - Where Young Minds Bloom - Jada's Gold Award project, Cub Garden - Where Young Minds Bloom, addressed the need for outdoor learning opportunities for today's youth. Jada worked with a local early education center to create an interactive learning garden to strengthen students' social and emotional skills while simultaneously improving their recognition of numbers and the alphabet.

Girl Scouts has given me the opportunity to better both myself and my community, as well as make life-changing connections and memories that I will never forget.



Jaylea Pickett Belton, TX

Get Outside and Learn - Jaylea's Gold Award project, Get Outside and Learn, made an impact in her community by addressing the need for children to learn outdoors. Jaylea's project worked to eliminate the barriers that educators often face to taking students outside. Jaylea created an outdoor learning space at a local early childhood campus that provided both shelter and shade for its students.

Through Girl
Scouts I have
learned the
importance
of stepping
outside of my
comfort zone and
gained valuable
leadership skills.



Kaylen PickettBelton, TX

Sensory Sensation Space - Kaylen's Gold Award project, Sensory Sensation Space, helped her community by providing a way for children to engage their sensory systems through environmental stimuli. Kaylen partnered with a local preschool to create a sensory wall to support sensory needs, as well as vestibular (sense of balance) and proprioceptive (awareness of where your body is in space) needs of students.

Girl Scouts has taught me to be courageous and caring and to show compassion to those around me.



Lauren De La Torre Austin, TX

Breaking Barriers by Empowering Minorities in STEM - Lauren's Gold Award project, *Breaking Barriers by Empowering Minorities in STEM*, made an impact in her community by addressing the underrepresentation of minority groups in STEM fields. Lauren hosted workshops at a local library using the bilingual English/Spanish curriculum she created with a primary focus on introducing Hispanic children to STEM concepts, specifically targeting the field of robotics.

Girl Scouts has taught me to lead with courage, break barriers, and embrace and empower diversity.



Lucy Yantis Georgetown, TX

A Girl Scout's Guide to the Goodwater Loop Trail -Lucy's Gold Award project, A Girl Scout's Guide to the Goodwater Loop Trail, addressed the importance of getting more youth outdoors. Lucy created four informational videos encouraging others to get outside by trying backpacking. Her videos offered guidance and the know-how needed to access additional resources to be used during a tent camping or backpacking journey.

Girl Scouts has provided me with outdoor adventures and educational opportunities, as well as life-long friendships.



Megan LaRochelle Austin, TX

New Pet Owner? This Video Can Help!

- Megan's Gold Award project, *New Pet Owner? This Video Can Help!*, impacted her community by addressing the decline in pet adoptions from her local PAWS shelter. Megan's project shifted the shelter from printed materials to an online marketing video and digital flyers promoting the wellbeing and adoption of dogs and cats in need.

Girl Scouts has impacted my life by teaching me valuable communication and organizational skills, responsibility, and the courage to try new things.



Mia Surovik Austin, TX

Six Strings to Happiness: How Learning Guitar Can Positively Impact Your Mental Health - Mia's Gold Award project, Six Strings to Happiness: How Learning Guitar Can Positively Impact Your Mental Health, linked performing music with improved mental health for young people. Mia created, organized, and hosted a recurring, free guitar camp where youth were taught how to read music, play guitar, and learn the benefits of music on mental health.

Girl Scouts
has taught
me invaluable
leadership skills
and has given
me the courage
and confidence to
stand apart from
the crowd.



Randee Freeze China Spring, TX

Belli Buddies - Randee's Gold Award project, *Belli Buddies*, made an impact in her community by addressing the need to support teens and young adults after finding out they are expecting a child. Randee created a sustainable support club to provide emotional support, valuable resources, and to distribute donations of necessities to first-time parents.

Girl Scouts
has taught me
leadership and
outdoor skills,
valuable life skills,
along with the joys
and importance of
sisterhood.



Sarah Berver Austin, TX

Girl's Guide to D&D 2nd Edition - Sarah's Gold Award project, Girl's Guide to D&D 2nd Edition, made an impact in her community by addressing the lack of opportunities for girls to develop and improve their creativity and teamwork skills through the game of Dungeons & Dragons. Sarah created a junior D&D starter kit, as well as a video tutorial series for her local library, to boost girls' imaginations and creative outlets.

Girl Scouts has taught me how to take on new challenges and move outside my comfort zone.



Alex,

From Daisy to Ambassador, you have worked hard to achieve all three higher awards, countless dive certifications, and also mentored younger scouts along the way. We are so proud of you and all your accomplishments.

We love you and look forward to seeing what more is ahead for you in the future.

Congratulations!

Mom and Dad

"Treasure your curiosity and nurture your imagination." — Shirley Ann Jackson

Ayesha,

We celebrate your accomplishments and your dedication to making the world a better place. We are so proud of you and your committment to empowering young women in science and engineering. You are a role model and an inspiration to girls everywhere and especially your Girl Scout sisters in Troop 2959.

—The Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors, Leaders & Parents of Troop 2959



Danae.

You are a gift and an inspiration to your Girl Scout sisters in Troop 2959. We are grateful to you for sharing your insights and perspectives with care and grace. Your quiet strength and presence have made a lasting impact on us all. We celebrate your accomplishments and your dedication to making the world a better place.

-The Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors, Leaders & Parents of Troop 2959

"Women supporting women is the most powerful force for change in the world." — Ntozake Shange



Congratulations ELEANOR!

We are proud of you!



Love, Troop 2179



To the amazing Grace,

From the day you came home from elementary school and said you wanted to be a Gril Scout to the day you submitted your final Gold Award report, you have lived your life with Courage, Confidence and Character. It was an honor to watch you grow through friendships, experiences, Cookie sales, and camps. Across Bronze, Silver, and Gold, you did your best in being kind to others, respecting yourself, and making the world a better place. We have never been prouder.

Love, Mom, Dad and Marty





Jada Edwards's Gold Award Project, Cub Garden-Where Young Minds Bloom!



Jada's initiative created an outdoor learning center for the students at George W. Carver Early Education Center in Lockhart, Texas, to develop their social and emotional skills as well as their language, literacy, mathematics, science, and reading skills.

Jada has been a part of Chisholm Trail Service Unit since moving to Lockhart during her second semester of her 1st grade year. Jada will be attending Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. She has chosen to major in Exercise Science to become a Physical Therapist.

We wish Jada all the luck in the world and know that she will accomplish whatever she sets her mind to. **Congratulations Jada!**

Jada Lynn

We are so proud of your dedication and hard work in juggling your academics, sports, life activities, and putting in the time needed to earn your Gold award.
You also showed extraordinary leadership skills at an early age, through earning your bronze and silver award.

Girl Scouts has exposed you to new things like ice skating, tent camping, hiking, kayaking, and traveling across the world.

During these last 13 years, being apart of Girl Scout has helped you become the leader you are and we are looking forward to see what the future has in store for you.

Love, Mom and Dad









"On and on you will hike.
And I know you'll hike far
and face up to your problems
whatever they are....
Kid, you'll move mountains!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting.
So....get on your way!"

--Dr. Seuss



Dear Lucy,

We are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished in Girl Scouts and in life. What a great adventure it's been! We hope you'll always keep climbing mountains and pursuing your dreams in the years ahead and keep in touch with all the sisters you gained in Girl Scouts.

With love, Mom, Dad, Sam, and all of your family and friends in Troop 572







Sarah,

We are incredibly proud of all that you have accomplished in your 12 years of Girl Scouts. You've gone from a Daisy that hid behind your older brother while he sold your cookies to a 1250+ box seller who is always happy to mentor younger girls. As we watch you take the world by storm, it is obvious that Girl Scouts taught you so much more than just how to sell cookies.

Girl Scouts has given you the opportunity to develop confidence, leadership, organization, and resilience, and you have not backed down from the challenge. The foundation you laid for your life will serve as a mighty bedrock for everything you hope to accomplish in the future.

Love, Mama, Daddy & James

















Congratulations to Ryley & Sarah of Troop 1880 for Going for Gold!

Your accomplishments have been an inspiration to the girls in our Service Unit by showing that girls can enjoy traditional "boy hobbies". While the projects were for communities outside of Girl Scouts, they provide valuable resources for our troop leaders that wish to teach their scouts these skills. We are all very proud of both of you.



~ The Pfirefly Service Unit

Ryley, you used your love for crafting and woodworking to earn the following: Bronze: Mission to Zulu Twilight Camp, 2015, Silver: Little Free Libraries, 2019 Gold: Armrest Benches with Disability Accommodations, Gold Award Year 2022 - 2023





Sarah, you used your love for mixed media and the game Dungeons & Dragons to earn the following: Bronze: PSA Video for the Pflugerville Animal Shelter, 2016, Silver: Girl's Guide to D&D, 2019 Gold: Girl's Guide to D&D, 2nd Edition, Gold Award Year 2023 - 2024









