

Gold Award

2025-2026 Yearbook



Dear Gold Award Recipients,

Congratulations! You did it! You have reached the pinnacle of Girl Scouting by earning its highest honor—the Girl Scout Gold Award.

As a Gold Award recipient, you join a distinguished legacy of young women who have been creating positive change since 1916. This prestigious award reflects your dedication, leadership, and commitment to making the world a better place. The leadership skills, organizational strength, and sense of community you gained through “Going for the Gold” have prepared you for a lifetime of active citizenship and meaningful impact.

Today is a day to celebrate all you have accomplished and the difference you have made. I see a bright and promising future ahead for each of you. As a Gold Award Girl Scout, you know that you can achieve anything you aspire to and accomplish whatever you set your mind to. As you move forward, I encourage you to embrace new opportunities and confidently take your place at the community leadership table.

Say yes—to higher education, to exploration and adventure, public service, entrepreneurship, or any path that brings you purpose and fulfillment. When challenges arise, remember that you are a Girl Scout. You have the courage, confidence, and character to overcome any obstacle. You are ready to change the world, and we look forward to seeing all that your future holds.

Even in a world of constant change, you persevered. My hope is that years from now, you will look back on this moment and celebrate your resilience, your growth, and the memories you’ve made along the way.

Always remember that you are extraordinary. **You are solid Gold!**

Yours in Girl Scouting,

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

Paula Bookidis
Girl Scouts of Central Texas
Chief Executive Officer


2025-2026 Gold Award Recipients



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




Allison Hillenmeyer
Austin, TX

 **Parks and Barks: Promoting Dog Adoption and Fostering** - Allison's Gold Award Project, *Parks and Barks: Promoting Dog Adoption and Fostering*, impacted her community by addressing the persistent overcrowding in local animal shelters. Allison organized a community education event that connected families with rescue organizations while dispelling common misconceptions about shelter dogs. Through interactive activities, social media outreach, and partnerships with local shelters, her project encouraged pet adoption and fostering. By creating a clear, replicable planning guide, Allison ensures the event can continue engaging the community and supporting shelter animals for years to come.



Anjali Carl
Cedar Park, TX

 **Bites and Bins: Composting and Cooking to decrease Food Waste** - Anjali's Gold Award Project, *Bites and Bins: Composting and Cooking to decrease Food Waste*, made an impact on her community by addressing food waste at local food pantries and universities. Anjali created a composting system and developed two digital cookbooks to help families and college students use perishable foods before they spoil. Through educational materials, tastings, and partnerships, her project reduces landfill waste while expanding access to sustainable cooking and composting practices across multiple communities.




Auriane Saint-Laurent
Austin, TX

College Prep Club - Auriane's Gold Award Project, *College Prep Club*, made an impact on her community by addressing test anxiety among high school students. Auriane created a peer-led club that offered SAT® practice tests, academic workshops, and supportive office hours to increase student confidence and preparedness. By fostering a safe, collaborative environment and sharing scalable resources through an online platform, her project equips students with strategies to reduce anxiety and succeed in standardized testing.



Chapel James
New Ulm, TX

 **Ian's Angel – One Pill Kills** - Chapel's Gold Award Project, *Ian's Angel – One Pill Kills*, made an impact by raising awareness about the dangers of fentanyl poisoning. Inspired by the story of a young man who died after unknowingly taking a fentanyl-laced pill, Chapel delivered presentations to schools, youth groups, and community organizations. Through storytelling, interactive activities, and education about drug safety and Narcan, her project has reached more than 3,000 people and encourages safe choices to help prevent future tragedies.




Evelyn Stidvent
Austin, TX

 **Mend It; Don't End It** - Evelyn's Gold Award Project, *Mend It; Don't End It*, made an impact on her community by addressing textile waste and the lack of repair culture in fashion. Evelyn established a permanent sewing station at an Austin Public Library branch and led hands-on workshops teaching basic mending skills. By increasing access to tools and education, her project empowers community members to repair clothing, reduce landfill waste, and make more sustainable choices.



Gretchen Ewing
Austin, TX

 **Increasing Food Allergy Awareness** - Gretchen's Gold Award Project, *Increasing Food Allergy Awareness*, made an impact on her community by addressing the lack of education about food allergies. Gretchen created national and local educational resources for Girl Scouts and students, including training courses, curriculum materials, and awareness activities. By partnering with GSUSA, councils nationwide, and her high school, her project equips leaders and students with tools to improve safety, inclusion, and understanding for individuals with food allergies.



Isaura Lopez Reed
Austin, TX

Purple Martin Protection at Hornsby Bend and Awareness and Education Campaign - Isaura's Gold Award Project, *Purple Martin Protection at Hornsby Bend and Awareness and Education Campaign*, made an impact by supporting migratory bird conservation and community education. Partnering with Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory and Travis Audubon, Isaura improved purple martin nesting areas through predator protection, installed an educational outdoor sign, and created a dedicated website to raise awareness. By combining hands-on conservation with accessible educational resources, her project encourages visitors and youth to protect declining bird populations.



Janna Khan
Round Rock, TX

Coexisting with Coyotes - Janna's Gold Award Project, *Coexisting with Coyotes*, made an impact on her community by addressing the lack of education around human-coyote interactions. Janna created educational materials, installed permanent trail signage, and hosted informational booths and presentations in local neighborhoods. Through partnerships with Texas Parks & Wildlife and community organizations, her project helps residents learn how to safely coexist with coyotes, protecting both people and wildlife while promoting long-term community awareness.



Laila Nahvi
Austin, TX

Sun Safety Awareness Project - Laila's Gold Award Project, *Sun Safety Awareness Project*, made an impact in her community by uplifting important sun safety education, and skin cancer prevention awareness among young people. Laila created a permanent educational mural at her high school, led interactive workshops, and developed digital and printed resources to promote safe sun habits. Through community partnerships and measurable outreach, her project empowers students and families to adopt proactive behaviors that support long-term skin health and cancer prevention.




Lillian Jacobs
College Station, TX

EduCATional Videos: Feral Cat Management - Lillian's Gold Award Project, *EduCATional Videos: Feral Cat Management*, made an impact on her community by addressing the lack of education around Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) programs for feral cats. Lillian created a series of instructional videos and assessments in partnership with the Bryan College Station Spay Neuter Project to improve voucher applicant knowledge and reduce failed trappings. By strengthening education and accessibility, her project supports humane population control and long-term animal welfare.



Lucy Brown
Austin, TX

 **Script Text-to-Voice** - Lucy's Gold Award Project, *Script Text-to-Voice*, made an impact on her community by addressing the challenges actors and technicians face when practicing scripts independently. Lucy created an Artificial Intelligence-powered mobile app that converts scripts into customizable audio, allowing users to rehearse dialogue, cues, and scenes on their own time. By merging technology and the arts, her project expands access to creative rehearsal tools and supports performers and theater teams worldwide.



Magnolia Hance
Austin, TX



Her Hunt Course - Magnolia's Gold Award Project, *Her Hunt Course*, made an impact on her community by addressing the growing disconnect between wildlife conservation and outdoor education. Magnolia created a multi-phase program that recruited and trained young women in hunter education, firearm safety, and conservation-focused media assets. By building confidence, promoting ethical hunting, and fostering lifelong engagement in conservation, her project empowers participants to become informed stewards of wildlife and active supporters of conservation efforts.



Megan Bansal
Belton, TX

In Case of Emergency: A Kid's Guide to Taking Action and Seeking Help - Megan's Gold Award Project, *In Case of Emergency: A Kid's Guide to Taking Action and Seeking Help*, made an impact on her community by addressing the need for emergency education for young children. Megan created a permanent, interactive ambulance exhibit at the Temple Children's Museum that teaches children how to recognize emergencies, trust first responders, and seek help. Through hands-on activities and guided workshops, her project empowers children with life-saving knowledge and builds confidence around emergency situations.



Natasha Nahvi
Austin, TX

Strong Minds for a Bright Future - Natasha's Gold Award Project, *Strong Minds for a Bright Future*, made an impact on her community by addressing youth mental health awareness and access to support. Natasha created a social media campaign and a collaborative public mural to reduce stigma, promote positivity, and connect young people to mental health resources. By combining digital outreach with a permanent visual message at her high school, her project encourages open conversations and empowers youth to prioritize their emotional well-being.




Perween Ahmad
Round Rock, TX

Blossom Impact: Ensuring Free Period Pads for Women in Fatehpur - Perween's Gold Award Project, *Blossom Impact: Ensuring Free Period Pads for Women in Fatehpur*, made an impact by addressing period poverty and menstrual health education in the underserved community of Fatehpur. Perween partnered with a local factory and school to install free period-pad dispensers and led menstrual hygiene workshops to reduce stigma and health risks. By combining access, education, and sustainable partnerships, her project empowers women and girls with dignity, knowledge, and long-term support.




Rebecca van Bavel
Round Rock, TX

 **Yarborough Branch Seed and Houseplant Cutting Library** - Rebecca's Gold Award Project, *Yarborough Branch Seed and Houseplant Cutting Library*, made an impact in her community by promoting sustainable gardening and preserving biodiversity. Rebecca restored and expanded a seed lending library at her local Austin Public Library branch, distributing native and heritage seeds, hosting seed swaps, and teaching seed saving techniques. By reducing financial barriers and fostering community engagement, her project empowers local gardeners and supports resilient ecosystems for future generations.




Sophia Salinas
Georgetown, TX

 **Let Others Know** - Sophia's Gold Award Project, *Let Others Know*, made an impact on her community by promoting mental health awareness and access to reliable resources for pre-teen and teen girls. Sophia created murals with QR-linked resources, mental health activity boxes, and a calming outdoor space at the Georgetown Girl Scout House. By training both girls and adult leaders, her project fosters open conversations, strengthens support systems, and helps reduce stigma around anxiety and depression.




Stella Oldham
Bellville, TX

 **Retired Flag Box** - Stella's Gold Award Project, *Retired Flag Box*, made an impact in her community by promoting respect for the American flag through education and long-term access to proper flag retirement. Stella partnered with local veterans and the VFW to design and install a permanent flag retirement collection box and led community-wide presentations on U.S. flag etiquette. By educating over 1,000 people and creating a sustainable resource, her project ensures worn flags are honored with dignity.




Suhaani Srereddy
Austin, TX

 **Speak Out for Special Needs** - Suhaani's Gold Award Project, *Speak Out for Special Needs*, made an impact on her community by promoting inclusion and awareness for students with autism and sensory needs. Inspired by personal experiences, Suhaani launched an educational campaign that included peer workshops, school partnerships, sensory-toy donation drives, and a social media initiative. By educating peers, parents, and school staff, her project helps bridge gaps in understanding and creates more supportive environments for neurodiverse students to succeed.




Tatum Davis
Wimberley, TX

 **Registered Monarch Butterfly Waystation in Woodcreek, TX** - Tatum's Gold Award Project, *Registered Monarch Butterfly Waystation in Woodcreek, TX*, made an impact by supporting monarch butterfly conservation and pollinator education. Driven by her passion for the environment, Tatum partnered with the City of Woodcreek to design and build the city's first registered monarch waystation using native and recycled materials. This permanent, publicly accessible garden provides a safe habitat for monarchs while beautifying community green spaces and educating visitors on pollinator protection.



Willa Fischer
Austin, TX

 **Be Seen. Be Understood: A Medical Advocacy Curriculum for the Kids of U.R. Our Hope** - Willa's Gold Award Project, *Be Seen. Be Understood: A Medical Advocacy Curriculum for the Kids of U.R. Our Hope*, made an impact by empowering children to confidently advocate for themselves in medical settings. In partnership with medical professionals and U.R. Our Hope, Willa created and delivered an evidence-based workshop curriculum that teaches kids how to communicate symptoms, use medical terminology, and speak up to healthcare providers. Through in-person, virtual, and self-paced workshops, her project improves youth-medical practitioner interactions and expanded access to lasting advocacy resources.



Zoya Salam
Austin, TX

Financially Fabulous Podcast - Zoya's Gold Award Project, *Financially Fabulous Podcast*, made an impact by empowering young women with accessible and engaging financial literacy education. Inspired by the lack of relatable resources for girls, Zoya created a podcast and social media platform that teaches budgeting, saving, investing, and financial confidence. Through podcasts, YouTube content, and community partnerships, her project reaches thousands of listeners and continues to grow through a new leadership team, ensuring lasting access to financial education for future generations.

Alli,

From the start of your Girl Scout journey as a Daisy, you've shown dedication, curiosity, and a willingness to take on new challenges. You've tried new things, built lasting friendships, and grown into a confident leader along the way.

Earning your Gold Award is a true reflection of your hard work and the impact you're already making. We are so proud of you and everything you've accomplished. You're going to go on to do great things, and we can't wait to see what comes next.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Isaac, Nathan,
and your Troop 2228 family



To our GS Sister Anjali,

You are THE shining example of what a Girl Scout can do! You inspire and impress us on a regular basis with your passion, dedication and natural curiosity.

Your influence in the troop has helped us find purposeful projects and stay bonded as Girl Scout sisters.

We are so proud of you and all the work you have done to make the world a better place through your Gold Award project.

Troop 1674

Adrianna, Autumn, Cali, Jo, Karoline, Renee, Romy
Jessica & Prairie



Anjali,

From your first days as a Daisy, you've approached everything with curiosity, creativity, and a willingness to learn. Whether you were earning your first cooking badge or baking something new just for the joy of it, you were beginning the journey that has now become part of who you are.

Over the years, your love for food has grown into a passion: understanding it, improving it, and using it to help others. You used your voice to solve a real problem and improve systems so your impact of your Gold continues on. We have loved watching your evolution from that kindergartener in her first troop to a confident leader, mentor, and changemaker.

As you look ahead, we know this is only the beginning. From representing the council in D.C. as a National Delegate to finishing your senior year, we know you will bring that same curiosity, creativity, and determination to everything you do. The world needs what you have to offer, and we have no doubt you will continue to make a difference in ways we can only begin to imagine.

We are endlessly proud of you.

Love
Dad, Mom, Akka, Ammama, Nani,
Pop, Jonesy and Misty.



CHAPEL *James*



GOLD AWARD PROJECT

Ian's Angel



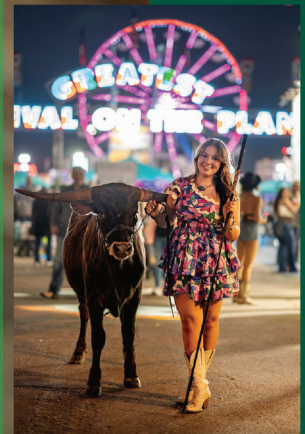
Through a Texas Longhorn named "Ian's Angel," Chapel learned about Ian, a young man who lost his life to a single fentanyl pill. After meeting Ian's mother, Chapel realized, if it could happen to him, it could happen to anyone. Driven to break the stigma surrounding overdose, she turned her passion for showing Longhorns into a powerful advocacy platform.

Chapel used a Texas Longhorn to grab attention and share Ian's story. This sparked conversations among youth and adults alike. By spreading awareness, she ensured his memory would save future lives.

A Girl Scout for nine years, Chapel has now earned the prestigious Trifecta. She previously completed her Bronze and Silver Awards through installing handicapped accessible playground equipment in her local park and implementing a flag retirement process in her community.

As she prepares to join the United States Navy, Chapel's bravery and serving heart continue to shine.

*Chapel, we are incredibly proud of the style, grace, and dignity you bring to the world. May God lead you to new possibilities and keep you safe. Listen to the Holy Spirit that strengthens you. We love you; we love who you are and who you will become.
(Isaiah 43:2)
- Mom & Dad*





Evelyn,



We are so proud of you! Your Girl Scout journey has been like so many of your endeavors, starting small and ending with a great achievement.

What an honor to watch you learn and grow. Congratulations on achieving your Gold Award and all your accomplishments! We can't wait to see what the future holds for you.

**Love,
Mom, Dad,
Charlotte,
Ava, and
Ford**



Congratulations Sophia!!

We are all so very proud of you, of all your accomplishments and we love you so very much! As you venture into adulthood, be bold, be brave, be the light and be you! I know you'll do great.

**With Love,
Your Dad**





Stella Oldham's Gold Award Project, Retired Flag Box!

Stella built and installed a flag retirement box outside the local VFW, providing the community with a respectful and accessible way to retire American flags. Stella also created an educational program that educated the community about the importance of our flag and patriotism, holding workshops and speaking to the community. Stella has been a part of Troop 871 since her second-grade year.

Stella will be attending United States Military Academy West Point and ultimately wants to be a civil rights attorney.

We wish Stella the best and know she will accomplish whatever she sets her mind to! Reach for the stars! Congratulations Stella!

**All Our Love,
Mom, Harrison, Evelyn and Norah**



Willa

**Congratulations
on earning your
Gold Award!**

“The work of today
is the history of tomorrow,
and we are its makers.”

Juliette Gordon Low



Love,
Mom, Dad, & Wyatt



**Congratulations to the 2025-2026
GSCTX Gold Award Girl Scouts!**

We are so proud of you!

- GSCTX Board of Directors

Autographs

Autographs

