



2025 Gold Award Ceremony

**Council-wide Celebration Honoring
this Year's Gold Award Girl Scouts**

You changed the world—let's celebrate!

Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 3 p.m.

girlscouts 
of western ohio

Program of Events

“Canon in D” by Pachelbel

Anna Newman - Cello
Brigid Newman - Violin
Clare Newman - Viola
Gold Award Girl Scouts

Opening

Suzanne Valle
Gold Ceremony Committee

Presentation of the Colors

North Region Honor Guard

National Anthem

Rylee Gardner, Samantha Melowic,
Anika Saladi
Gold Award Girl Scouts

Girl Scout Promise

Emma Hunley
Gold Award Girl Scout

Girl Scout Law

Laura Kabban
Gold Award Girl Scout

Invocation

Jenna Brennan
Gold Award Girl Scout

Introduction of Special Guests

Suzanne Valle
Gold Ceremony Committee

Welcome

Aimée Sproles
President & Chief Executive Officer

What it Takes to Earn the Gold

Kylee Sortman
Gold Award Girl Scout 2024

Presentation of Gold Awards I

Suzanne Valle
Gold Ceremony Committee

Aimée R. Sproles
President & Chief Executive Officer

Cassie Barlow
Board Chair

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Cassie Barlow
Board Chair

Gold Award Keynote Speaker

Jenell R. Ross
President, Bob Ross Auto Group

Presentation of Gold Awards II

Suzanne Valle
Gold Ceremony Committee

Aimée Sproles
President & Chief Executive Officer

Cassie Barlow
Board Chair

Passing the Light and Spirit of Girl Scouts

Margarete Billingsley
Gold Award Girl Scout

“Juliette” Song

Tori Schretter - Vocals
Gold Award Girl Scout 2024

Alyssa Browning - Guitar
Gold Award Girl Scout

Closing Remarks

Suzanne Valle
Gold Ceremony Committee

Jenell R. Ross

Keynote Speaker

Jenell is currently the President of Bob Ross Auto Group, a family-owned automobile dealership located in Centerville, Ohio, representing Buick, GMC, and Mercedes-Benz. She is a champion of her community and has a strong legacy in both business and philanthropy.



Jenell made history as the first, and until 2020, the only second-generation African American woman automobile dealer in the U.S. Under her leadership, the Bob Ross Auto Group has reached over 50 years in business, marking a significant milestone as the only African American-owned dealership to achieve such longevity.

She serves on the boards of Cars.com, the Hub Group and is an Emeritus Trustee for the University of Dayton. She has also held leadership roles with the American International Automobile Dealers

Association, where she was the first African American and second woman to serve as Chairwoman in the organization's 55-year history.

Jenell's philanthropic efforts are channeled through the Norma J. Ross Memorial Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit which she founded in honor of her late mother. The foundation is invested in improving the lives of underserved Miami Valley residents, particularly with access to healthcare and supporting literacy development among young people.

As a champion of community partnerships, Jenell believes in giving back and collaborates with organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Dayton Art Institute, and the Dayton Performing Arts Alliance. Her contributions have earned her numerous accolades, including the Community Trailblazer Award from the Ohio Minority Supplier Diversity Council, the Pinnacle Award from the Women of Color Automotive Network, and the First Community Impact Award from the General Motors Minority Dealer Organization.

With a strong legacy in business and philanthropy, Jenell R. Ross continues to inspire as a leader, innovator, and advocate for progress. Her unwavering commitment to supporting the community is reflected in the core values of the dealership she runs, making Bob Ross Auto Group more than just a place to buy a car—but a dedicated partner, working hand-in-hand with the community to make a positive difference.

Achieving the Gold Award

A Girl Scout's greatest achievement is earning her Gold Award, demonstrating remarkable dedication to improving her community and the world.

Gold Award Girl Scouts begin by tackling the issues most important to them. These girls are inspiring leaders, working on challenging problems facing our world today, ranging from poverty to civic engagement to biodiversity.

Gold Award Girl Scouts take a seven-step approach to develop a lasting solution to their selected challenge. The skills they demonstrate throughout the process give Gold Award Girl Scouts a competitive edge in the college admissions process, and as they take on leadership roles in their everyday lives.



7 Steps to Achieving the Gold Award:

1

Identify an Issue: Use your values and skills to choose a community issue that you care about.

2

Investigate it Thoroughly: Use your sleuthing skills to learn everything you can about the issue you've identified.

3

Get Help and Build Your Team: Form a team to support your efforts and help you take action.

4

Create a Plan: Identify the root cause of an issue, and then create a plan to tackle it.

5

Present Your Plan and Gather Feedback: Submit your Project Proposal Form to your Girl Scout council for approval.

6

Take Action: Lead your team and carry out your plan.

7

Educate and Inspire: Tell your story and share your results.

The Mark of the Truly Remarkable



Gold Award Girl Scouts don't just change the world for the better, they change it for good. The Gold Award is earned by girls in grades 9–12 who demonstrate extraordinary leadership in developing sustainable solutions to local, national, and global challenges.

Since 1916, Girl Scouts have answered the call to drive lasting, impactful change. The Gold Award is the mark of the truly remarkable!

Gold Award Girl Scouts

Margarete Billingsley	6	Emma Hunley	13	Lindsey Ott	21
Jenna Brennan	6	Molly Janus	14	Alexandra Parish	21
Alyssa Browning	7	Laney Johnson	14	Anna Patnode	22
Jasper Chesak	7	Laura Kabban	15	Margaret Phillips	22
Maggie Denlinger	8	Hailey Kennedy	15	Geneva Rayburn	23
Adelaide Duck	8	Ann Kim	16	Kaylee Reedy	23
Diana Duckro	9	Carolyn Koch	16	Ava Rosz	24
Kelley Forsythe	9	Addison Lanich	17	Emma Russell	24
Reilly Franke	10	Sofia Leni	17	Anika Saladi	25
Rylee Gardner	10	Samantha Melowic	18	Kalley Shea	25
Bryanna Geoffrion	11	Ariya Naik	18	Makayla Skinner	26
Addison Greene	11	Anna Newman	19	Kathleen Smith	26
Miranda Grogean	12	Brigid Newman	19	Joanna Warner	27
Paige Harsman	12	Clare Newman	20	Celeste Whiteley	27
Theresa Horstman	13	Elisabeth Norman	20		

Margarete Billingsley

Troop 32446
Huber Heights, OH

Margarete is a graduate of Wayne High School, attending Sinclair Community College, majoring in Nursing. She was involved in marching band, swim team, and Scouts BSA. Margarete has been a Girl Scout for 12 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



The Red Dot Project

Margarete's project addressed the challenge of menstrual product affordability for low-income women. She partnered with the Master's Closet, where women could pick up necessary products for free, relieving them of the financial burden of choosing between food and menstrual supplies. Her team obtained over 3,500 products through

community donations, and a local organization has agreed to continue support for needed items. Margarete's goal was to ensure women do not have to face this difficult decision, providing them with the items they need without worry.

Jenna Brennan

Troop 43130
Cincinnati, OH

Jenna is a junior at Taylor High School. She is active in youth ministry and teaches Catechism classes for preschool and kindergarten students. Jenna has been a Girl Scout for 11 years and has earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Reading Friends

Jenna established a reading buddy program at her high school to inspire kindergarten students to develop a love for reading amid a decline in book engagement as children age. She promoted the volunteer program through posters and a Google sign-up sheet shared with teachers and students. Each month, she selected books and crafted

discussion questions to guide participants. The program's success was evident through positive feedback from both kindergarten and high school students, who expressed their enjoyment and enthusiasm. Her initiative earned her a community impact award at her high school, highlighting the program's meaningful contribution to fostering literacy and connection across age groups.

Alyssa Browning

Juliette
Bellbrook, OH

Alyssa is a senior at Bellbrook High School. She is involved in theatre, Supportive Peers, and tennis. Alyssa has been a Girl Scout for 11 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

It Might Not Be Normal



Alyssa's project focused on raising awareness about teen dating violence. She spent many hours researching the topic before compiling her findings into a slideshow presentation. Alyssa shared her presentation with staff members at Bellbrook Middle School, including counselors, the health teacher, and the principal. She discussed ways to incorporate this

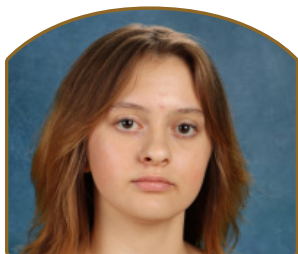
information into classrooms, and later shared it with her peers for feedback. After refining her presentation, Alyssa shared it with the Hope Squad, a group focused on mental health. She then launched a campaign with posters, bathroom tear-offs, and Instagram posts to further build awareness of this important topic.

Jasper Chesak

Troop 49843
Cincinnati, OH

Jasper is a senior at Spencer Center High School. She is active in Yearbook Club, Community Service Club, and the event planning committee at her museum job. Jasper has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

Breaking the Code



Jasper addressed gender inequality in her school's dress code, where female students were disproportionately in violation of the school's dress code. She collaborated with the principal to develop a fairer, less restrictive dress code by gathering input from teachers and female students across schools. Through multiple meetings and revisions, she finalized a dress code

structured around core values, guidelines, and enforcement, emphasizing positivity and fairness. This new policy aims to eliminate gender bias and ensure students are not unfairly targeted or shamed for their clothing choices, fostering a more inclusive and respectful school environment.

Maggie Denlinger

Juliette
Centerville, OH

Maggie is a senior at Centerville High School. She is involved in volunteering, volleyball, Model UN, and served as a national delegate for Girl Scouts of Western Ohio. Maggie has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

Sensory Aid Exploration



Maggie focused on improving support for people living with developmental disabilities in her community. To address this, she created sensory-friendly maker kits for the local library, which include fidgets, noise-reducing headphones, sunglasses, and other tools that align with common occupational and speech therapy goals for those affected by developmental

disabilities. Her kits are now part of the Library of Things collection. Maggie also expanded the library's Children's Board Game collection by adding over twenty games designed to support therapy goals for youth. She worked with library staff and community members to ensure the materials were useful and sustainable, helping make the library more accessible for everyone.

Adelaide Duck

Troop 32284
Springboro, OH

Adelaide is a graduate of Springboro High School, and now attends the University of Toledo majoring in Pre-Pharmacy. She was involved in orchestra, Junior Council of World Affairs, and Academic Team. Adelaide has been a Girl Scout for 11 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

Bats!



Adelaide focused on helping local bat species by creating sustainable housing. She built and installed six bat boxes at E. Milo Beck Park in Springboro in collaboration with the Springboro Parks maintenance team. Adelaide also organized a bat educational event at the park and a bat walk at Miller Ecological Park, educating attendees about the importance of bats,

their endangered status, and how they can help. These efforts will have a lasting impact on the local bat population and raise awareness in the community.

Diana Duckro

Troop 32261
Bellbrook, OH

Diana is a senior at Bellbrook High School. She is involved in lacrosse, Supportive Peers, and served as a national delegate for Girl Scouts of Western Ohio. Diana has been a Girl Scout for 12 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Solar Energy in Construction

Diana's project educated the community on the environmental benefits of solar energy and encouraged its use in the construction industry. She created an educational slideshow and presented it at Bellbrook City Council and Dayton Home Builders Association meetings. Diana also collaborated with builders, encouraging them to

include a solar energy consultant in their referrals. Additionally, she organized booths at local events, such as the Sugar Maple Festival and Centerville's Mystery Night Out, educating the community on solar panel installation and benefits of renewable energy resources.

Kelley Forsythe

Troop 22131
Huntsville, OH

Kelley is a senior at Benjamin Logan High School. She is involved in National Honor Society, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Tri-M National Honor Society. Kelley has been a Girl Scout for nine years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Beneficial Blankets

Kelley aimed to support healthcare personnel in providing more intentional care and resources for staff to use with patients, particularly those with dementia, at Mary Rutan Hospital and Health Center. Inspired by social media designs and discussions with a hospital employee, she designed two busy blankets and two skills blankets under the guidance of an

occupational therapist, who helped tailor the blankets for patients with memory loss and pediatric patients needing fine motor skills support. With assistance from her grandmother and several local sewers, including a small business owner and a church knitting group, Kelley's blanket designs were created for the hospital, as well as an instructional guide for sewing future blankets. The blankets are now used for inpatient care and therapy sessions, providing a great benefit to her community.

Congratulations, Girl Scouts!

Reilly Franke

Troop 35374
Beavercreek, OH

Reilly is a junior at The Dayton Regional STEM School. She is involved in tennis, STEM Ambassadors, and Bible Club. Reilly has been a Girl Scout for seven years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Outdoor Community Meeting Space

Reilly decided to create an outdoor community space for gatherings. After consulting with her church community about their needs, Reilly designed a space with benches, two fire pits, and a cross. She led a group of volunteers to clear the area and build the benches. The space was completed in just a few workdays. Reilly held an event to share the space's creation and purpose

with the community, and her church congregation will be using it for years to come.

Rylee Gardner

Troop 32404
Casstown, OH

Rylee is a graduate of Miami East High School, attending Ohio University, majoring in Early Childhood Education. She was involved in marching band, dance, and choir. Rylee has been a Girl Scout for eight years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



My Mission for the Band

Rylee's project focused on increasing support and recruitment for the color guard of the Miami East Marching Band. Color guard provides opportunities for youth to develop important skills like leadership, teamwork, and performance skills. Her project included basic training videos, workshops, and sessions led by experienced color guard members

and coaches to help girls learn the fundamentals and boost their confidence. A video demonstrating basic color guard techniques was also created to inspire and teach girls who are interested in joining or are currently involved in color guard.

Bryanna Geoffrion

Troop 10805
Waterville, OH

Bryanna is a graduate of Anthony Wayne High School, attending the New York Performing Arts Academy studying acting. She was involved in dance and 4-H. Bryanna has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

Babyland at the Lucas County Fair



For her project, Bryanna created and managed "Babyland" at her local fair. Inspired by a childhood visit to a similar exhibit, she aimed to educate children and adults on proper farm animal care. Babyland featured interactive learning experiences, including feeding baby goats, cleaning water, and handling young chickens. Bryanna invested 215 hours

into the project, which included coordinating volunteers, daily animal care, and collaborating with fair board and donors. The project continues to run annually, providing a unique and educational experience for children, particularly those from urban areas who may have limited exposure to livestock.

Addison Greene

Troop 41988
Oxford, OH

Addison is a senior at Talawanda High School. She is involved in marching band, Destination Imagination, and her own band as well. Addison has been a Girl Scout for 12 years and earned her Bronze Award.

Advocating for the Night Sky



Addison created a public campaign focused on raising awareness about light pollution. These efforts educated the community on the impacts of light pollution and ways to reduce it, and included a booth at a farmer's market and a blog in a sustainability newsletter. A survey link included revealed that most respondents had little prior knowledge on the

subject and learned at least three key facts. Addison also presented to Oxford's City Council, advising them on how to become a certified DarkSky Community. The council was receptive and expressed high interest in passing dark-sky friendly legislation.

Miranda Grogean

Troop 32348
Beavercreek, OH

Miranda is a senior at Beavercreek High School. She is involved in Irish dance, community service, and art. Miranda has been a Girl Scout for 12 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

Artcycle



Miranda's project raised awareness about recycling and its environmental benefits by combining art with recycling. She and her team built an ocean-themed float for the community's 4th of July parade using recycled materials to highlight ocean pollution, and hosted a three-day camp for kids in grades 3-6 to learn about recycling through fun activities. At her

camp, a representative from Montgomery County's Environmental Services spoke about the recycling process. Kids explored how trash affects marine animals, created tie-dye shirts made from recyclables that were donated to local children's hospitals, and played a relay game that involved sorting items into trash and recycling bins to learn what can be recycled. Through her project, she inspired others to think about recycling and how they can help the planet.

Paige Harsman

Troop 35209
Vandalia, OH

Paige is a junior at Chaminade Julianne High School. She is involved in tennis, student council, and The Eagle Messenger (Chaminade Julianne's Newspaper). Paige has been a Girl Scout for 11 years and earned her Bronze Award.

Awareness of and Alternatives for Food Allergies



After noticing that many snacks provided at youth events were not allergy friendly, Paige focused her project on educating her community on accommodations for children with allergies. After researching allergen-free snacks, Paige developed a flipbook that included information about food allergies, common allergens,

healthy snack alternatives, and recipes free from major allergens. She distributed the flipbooks to troop and children's activity leaders in her community to help them understand the importance of safe snack options, testing their knowledge before and after to track what they learned. She also donated copies of the flipbook to Girl Scout camps in the area, and created an Instagram account to reach a wider audience on this important topic.

Theresa Horstman

Troop 20711
Ottoville, OH

Theresa is a graduate of Ottoville High School, attending Miami University majoring in Psychology. She was involved in theater, Scholastic Bowl, and cross country. Theresa has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

Learning Through Literature



For her project, Theresa built and installed a Little Free Library in her community, creating a space for accessible, weatherproof book sharing. She also developed a website featuring book recommendations that address various disabilities and cultures, along with explanations to deepen readers' understanding of these topics. Theresa led a team to maintain the

library and ensured it remained a resource for fostering empathy and awareness through literature. Her project aimed to help readers gain a greater understanding of others' experiences by connecting literature with real-life challenges.

Emma Hunley

Troop 20063
Wapakoneta, OH

Emma is a senior at Lima Central Catholic. She is involved in marching band, student senate, and Kairos Leader. Emma has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

Girl Scout Gold at Sheriff's Office



For her project, Emma focused on raising community awareness and support for the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program. She traveled across Auglaize county, speaking to various groups and citizens about the important role D.A.R.E plays in youth drug abuse prevention. Through her advocacy and public speaking efforts, Emma secured the

funding to purchase a new multi-vehicle for the D.A.R.E Program in Auglaize that serves six school districts and reaches many young people with its important message.

Molly Janus

Troop 32261
Bellbrook, OH

Molly is a senior at Bellbrook High School. She is involved in cross country, National Honor Society, and Supportive Peers. Molly has been a Girl Scout for 12 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



American Spoils

Molly's project focused on educating her community about food waste and using resources wisely through composting. Inspired by her aunt, an Environmental Science teacher, Molly created interactive games and educational materials about proper ways to dispose of leftover food for use at community and Girl Scout events in her area. She also installed a compost

system at her church, allowing the congregation to contribute food scraps for composting, and creating a system for volunteers to add the compost to the church's garden to enrich the soil for future crops.

Laney Johnson

Troop 41988
Hamilton, OH

Laney is a graduate of Ross High School, attending the University of Cincinnati majoring in Medical Sciences. She was active in tennis, marching band, and Youth Philanthropy Committee. Laney was a Girl Scout for 12 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Bite Sized Knowledge

Laney addressed the decline in nutrition education in her community's local school by creating an engaging program to teach children and families about healthy eating. She developed interactive presentations with colorful visuals, hands-on activities, and games to make learning about balanced meals fun and accessible. She also spoke

with parents, providing tips on preparing healthier meals for picky eaters, and distributed educational materials at a local farmer's market. A community blog and social media posts expanded her project's reach. To ensure sustainability, she partnered with Little Sprouts to continue offering the program.

Laura Kabban

Troop 32348
Beavercreek, OH

Laura is a senior at Archbishop Carroll High School. She is involved in figure skating, National Art Honors Society, and ushering for the Schuster Center. Laura has been a Girl Scout for 11 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



SDFSC Junior Board

Laura created a Junior Board within the South Dayton Figure Skating Club to address issues like communication and club morale. The board gave younger skaters the chance to take on leadership roles, manage schedules, and promote positivity at competitions. Laura led the board in organizing bonding events that improved attitudes and skating performance. The project's success has fostered a more supportive environment within the club, and the Junior Board will continue to benefit future skaters.

Hailey Kennedy

Troop 22131
Zanesfield, OH

Hailey is a senior at Benjamin Logan High School. She is involved in National Honor Society, Art Club, and Key Club. Hailey has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Interactive Equine Assisted Activities

Hailey created four new interactive activities for Discovery Riders, a local therapeutic riding center, to use with students. She trained both staff at the center and their horses on using her activities. Her goal for the project was to enhance the success of lessons for volunteers, instructors, students, and horses. Each activity was designed to target different skills based on the varying needs and abilities of the students, including flexibility, coordination, communication, fine motor skills, and strength. Her activities continue to help students strengthen their skills, improve their daily lives, and enhance their overall therapeutic experience.

Ann Kim

Troop 45175
West Chester, OH

Ann is a graduate of Lakota East High School, attending Miami University majoring in Applied Biology. She was active in dance, LEAF club, and 4-H. Ann was a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

Invasive & Native Species Education



Ann developed an educational program about the importance of native species, invasive species awareness, and the effects of deforestation. At Lakota East High School, a field was transformed into a reforestation area by removing invasive species, planting native species, creating a walking path, and installing educational signs with assistance from school

members. To further the project's goals, an educational program was developed and presented to youth organizations, teaching about native and invasive species, the effects of deforestation, and their ecological importance. The program highlighted how these issues impact ecosystem health and provided actionable steps for maintaining healthy ecosystems within local communities. The LEAF club at her school will continue to offer these programs to the local community.

Carolyn Koch

Troop 46268
Midland, OH

Carolyn is a graduate of Blanchester High School, attending Marshall University majoring in Music Education. She was active in marching band, drama, and Future Farmers of America. Carolyn was a Girl Scout for 10 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

Building Community Through Theater



Carolyn promoted drama education through a middle school drama camp and the creation of online resources. She organized a three-hour camp involving a full team of high school and adult volunteers. Participants learned about theater crews, toured a theater, and practiced stage makeup, culminating in group performances. She worked with her team to produce

four instructional videos, seven short play scripts, a character generator, and various templates for drama activities, all made available online for organizations to host their own camps in the future.

Addison Lanich

Troop 48926
Hamilton, OH

Addison is a graduate of Lanich Academy, attending Cedarville University majoring in Criminal Justice. She was involved in competitive shooting sports, 4-H, and dance. Addison was a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Living History/Western Heritage Start-Up

Addison started a program in Butler County to teach students history in an engaging way, aiming to improve retention of knowledge. She worked with her team to develop a 10-week curriculum, which included hands-on activities aligned with each lesson. Through 4-H, two projects—Western Heritage and Living History—were offered, with an option to be

judged at the county fair. Each student had the opportunity to explore their own interests, fostering engagement and better knowledge retention. The program will continue to be offered by the Butler County Sharp Shooters 4-H club.

Sofia Leni

Troop 45152
Mason, OH

Sofia is a senior at Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy. She is involved in theater and volunteering. Sofia has been a Girl Scout for 12 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Bench and Birdhouse for the Park

Sofia centered her project around supporting wildlife conservation, fostering inclusivity, and promoting environmental sustainability. She worked with park staff to construct nesting structures for Saw-Whet owls at Caesar Creek State Park in Waynesville, Ohio, aiding researchers in studying owl migration patterns and behavior. By making the bird-watching area easy

to access, she ensured a peaceful experience for all visitors, including nearby seating, addressing social isolation among elderly and disabled individuals. By using recycled plastics and repurposed materials, the project reduced waste and conserved resources. Visitors can scan a QR code to learn more about the birds that frequent the area. As part of the park's educational mission, staff will continue to maintain and use the project.

Congratulations, Girl Scouts!

Samantha Melowic

Troop 47883
Monroe, OH

Samantha is a graduate of Monroe High School, attending Wright State University majoring in Middle Childhood Education. She was active in marching band, choir, and theater. Samantha was a Girl Scout for 12 years and earned her Silver Award.



The Happy Hornet Sensory Cart

Samantha and her team created "The Happy Hornet Sensory Cart," filled with resources and sensory tools to support children with special needs at her elementary school. After hosting three focus groups and collaborating with the district special education coordinator, the head of the elementary's special education department, and school principals, she

carefully researched and selected items such as fidgets, wobble cushions, putties, and social skills workbooks. The cart was designed to enhance classroom success and will be managed by a teacher specializing in Individualized Education Programs. By equipping the school with this resource, Samantha provided sustainable support for students with special needs, promoting a more inclusive and accommodating learning environment.

Ariya Naik

Troop 35374
Beavercreek, OH

Ariya is a junior at the Dayton Regional STEM School. She is involved in piano, volleyball, and robotics. Ariya has been a Girl Scout for 12 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Re-engaging Young Readers

Ariya learned that children stop reading for pleasure around grade 3 as they transition to independent reading. To combat this, she developed a booklet with colorful and engaging reading activities aimed at teaching children reading strategies and promoting a lifetime love of reading. After creating and printing the booklet, she distributed it to Girl Scout troops with

members in grades 2-4 and worked with them through the activities. Ariya also shared the booklet with an English teacher and the Beavercreek Public Library, ensuring it would remain accessible and sustainable for the wider community.

Anna Newman

Troop 32317
Oakwood, OH

Anna is a senior at Oakwood High School. She is involved in cheerleading, figure skating, orchestra, and was a member-at-large on Girl Scouts of Western Ohio's board. Anna has been a Girl Scout for 12 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Helping Our Heroes Who Hunger

Anna's project aimed to address food insecurity for local military veterans and their families in the greater Dayton area. In partnership with the Military Kids Club at Harman Elementary School, she organized a food drive in November with collection boxes at the school and the Federal Court House. Anna expanded her drive to add a collection

box in May at a VFW Post. She coordinated the delivery of the collected items to the Dayton VA Medical Center Food Pantry. To further support this cause, Anna established connections with the Veterans Administration, creating an Amazon Wishlist and a website, daytonhungerfighters.com, to boost donations. Harman Elementary School has committed to continue addressing food insecurity for veterans through an annual collection drive.

Brigid Newman

Troop 32317
Oakwood, OH

Brigid is a senior at Oakwood High School. She is involved in cheerleading, figure skating, and Westminster Presbyterian Youth Group. Brigid has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Coffee With A Cop

Brigid created her project to improve relationships between high school students and police officers. Recognizing the negative biases many students hold toward law enforcement, her program addresses the need for trusted adult figures in law enforcement and the community, especially for students facing mental health challenges. In collaboration with the

Oakwood Public Safety Department, Brigid provided a relaxed, open setting for dialogue between students in grades 7-12 with local officers. Sessions were held before school and Brigid provided coffee, donuts, and hot chocolate to create a welcoming environment. Over the past two years, the program has facilitated meaningful conversations, improved understanding, and created a sense of comfort between students and law enforcement.

Congratulations, Girl Scouts!

Clare Newman

Troop 32317
Oakwood, OH

Clare is a senior at Oakwood High School. She is involved in orchestra, field hockey, Westminster Presbyterian Youth Council, and served as a national delegate for Girl Scouts of Western Ohio. Clare has been a Girl Scout for 11 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Reuse, Reduce, and Play

Clare focused on collecting gently used sports equipment from Oakwood High School students, staff, and families. She wanted to reduce the number of students without access to proper sports gear in other school districts to encourage them to stay active through new equipment and activities. Clare collaborated with athletic directors to identify the

needs of students in the Mad River school district. After gaining support from the school principal and finding a teacher to mentor the club, she held a Club Fair in Fall 2023, which over 30 students joined. Her club organized fundraisers and collected donations from students and staff to purchase new sports equipment. In total, the club raised the funds to provide fifty-one equipment items for schools in need, and made a positive impact on students' access to sports in the Dayton area.

Elisabeth Norman

Troop 32404
Troy, OH

Elisabeth is a graduate of Miami East High School, attending Edison State Community College, majoring in Agribusiness Management. She was involved in yearbook club, Future Farmers of America, and Blue Crew. Elisabeth has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Miami County Fair Hope Closet

Elisabeth created The Hope Closet, providing clothing options for 4-H and Future Farmers of America youth who are participating in the county fair's youth activities. Donations for the closet were gathered through social media posts and a local donation site, and a local cleaner donated a wash day. The closet, filled with a wide variety of items like chaps, boots,

bridles, and hats, was set up in the Duke Lundgard building at the fairgrounds. She received positive feedback from the fair community, and the responsibility for maintaining the project was passed onto fair royalty.

Lindsey Ott

Troop 32404
Troy, OH

Lindsey is a graduate of Miami East High School, attending Wright State University, majoring in Biology. She was involved in marching band, concert band, and art. Lindsey has been a Girl Scout for 10 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Land Lab Renovation Project

The Miami East School's land lab, once used for sports, classes, and leisure, had deteriorated over time and students were no longer allowed to use the space. Recognizing its potential to improve student life, Lindsey worked with the Land Lab Committee to design two wooden arches to be both functional and visually appealing, ensuring they were durable and large enough for equipment. Gathering a team of students, teachers, and alumni, with materials provided by the school, Lindsey and her team built and installed the arches at the land lab. The Land Lab Committee was very pleased with the result, and has continued their restoration of this school resource. The land lab will soon be fully revitalized for student use.

Alexandra Parish

Troop 10799
Bowling Green, OH

Alexandra is a graduate of Bowling Green High School, attending the University of Cincinnati majoring in Archaeology and Classical Civilizations. She was involved in 4-H, quiz bowl, and tech theater. Alexandra has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Trinity United Methodist Church Dedication Documentation

Alexandra created a comprehensive database documenting every hymnal, Bible, painting, and table dedicated in her church. By recording names, dates, and locations, she aimed to preserve the memories and contributions of church members for future generations. This searchable database provides genealogists and family members with a valuable resource for discovering ancestral connections and confirming family histories. Alexandra planned and executed her project, designing a detailed spreadsheet to organize the data. She conducted thorough searches throughout the church, cataloging each item and resolving any mysteries related to dedications. Through this process, Alexandra honed her persistence and organizational skills, learning to overcome challenges and advocate for her project.

Anna Patnode

Troop 10179
Waterville, OH

Anna is a senior at Anthony Wayne High School. She is involved in quiz bowl, hockey, and the Gaming Club. Anna has been a Girl Scout for 12 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Raising Awareness of Relay for Life

For her project, Anna focused on enhancing the Relay for Life event in Wood County by introducing a new initiative to honor individuals affected by cancer. She designed and built a wind chime holder that allows attendees to purchase and display wind chimes in memory or honor of loved ones. This initiative not only increased donations, but also

created a meaningful tribute for participants. Anna secured sponsorships, collaborated with her family to construct the wind chime holder, and ensured it was easily storable for future events.

Margaret Phillips

Troop 48926
Ross, OH

Margaret is a graduate of Ross High School, attending Miami University majoring in Nursing. She was active on the bowling team, history club, and church youth group. Margaret was a Girl Scout for 12 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



A Place to Gather

Margaret addressed social isolation among young people in her community by creating an outdoor recreational area with a fire pit and benches at The Hamilton Church of God. She organized three social events featuring activities like making s'mores, grilling, and games, providing a safe environment for participants to connect. Surveys revealed that 89%

of attendees met new friends, and all respondents found the space beneficial and intended to invite others. To ensure sustainability, she provided the church with a binder containing activity ideas and event recommendations, enabling ongoing use of the fire pit as a gathering space for fostering social connections.

Geneva Rayburn

Troop 49843
Cincinnati, OH

Geneva is a senior at Walnut Hills High School. She is active in the Community Action Team, piano, and Greater Cincinnati Earth Board. Geneva has been a Girl Scout for 10 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

Teens Go Green



Geneva partnered with the Greater Cincinnati Earth Day Coalition to engage local teenagers in environmental issues and volunteerism. Over two years, she actively participated in board meetings and organized teenage volunteers to support the annual Earth Day event at Summit Park in Blue Ash. By utilizing school announcements, online platforms,

and word of mouth, she recruited volunteers, including 11 teens in her second year, significantly enhancing event cleanup and encouraging engagement with other educational booths and organizations. To ensure sustainability, she proposed and created a standing teen board position dedicated to youth outreach. This position guarantees a lasting avenue for younger voices to contribute to the coalition, promoting environmental awareness and volunteerism for future generations.

Kaylee Reedy

Troop 34342
Beavercreek, OH

Kaylee is a sophomore at Beavercreek High School. She is involved in volleyball and robotics. Kaylee has been a Girl Scout for 10 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

It's Not Just Playing Robots



Kaylee wanted to inspire young learners in STEM fields through robotics education. She created a curriculum and recruited volunteers from local high school robotics clubs to offer Vex Robotics workshops to incoming eighth graders. Her workshops showed students how to build and program robots, while teaching valuable technical skills and fostering

problem-solving and teamwork. Kaylee's curriculum also included developing essential soft skills, such as public speaking and documentation, through projects and presentations. Through fostering leadership and innovation in these workshops, Kaylee aims to inspire the next generation of engineers and scientists.

Ava Rosz

Troop 46898
Liberty Township, OH

Ava is a graduate of Lakota West High School, attending Purdue University majoring in Political Science and Communication. She was active in tennis and student government. Ava was a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

The Civil Service Project



Ava created a curriculum to address the lack of education in schools on locally elected offices. She partnered with eight city officials to create 10- to 15-minute videos and accompanying materials that educated students on that official's job duties, refining the curriculum with input from two high school teachers. Students chose topics related to

the videos, watched them, and completed worksheets. Knowledge gained was measured through student engagement and participation in the curriculum. The curriculum will be sustained by teachers who will annually offer it in their classrooms.

Emma Russell

Troop 32284
Centerville, OH

Emma is a senior at Centerville High School. She is involved in color guard and National Honor Society. Emma has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

Accessibility In Learning



Emma wanted to use crafting to raise community awareness of the seven learning styles: visual, verbal, auditory, tactile, logical, social, and solitary. She created a website to demonstrate these learning styles through different methods. Emma also produced instructional videos for a craft per each learning style, which were voiced over by a teammate and included captions.

She created slide shows for each craft with step-by-step explanations. Visual learning was shown through pictures and videos, auditory learning through voiceovers in the videos, and verbal learning through captions and written instructions. Tactile learning was represented by the physical act of crafting, while social and solitary learning were shown by people crafting together or alone. Logical learning was highlighted by the patterns and similarities between the crafts. Her project aimed to make learning styles more accessible and engaging.

Anika Saladi

Troop 45152
Mason, OH

Anika is a senior at William Mason High School. She is involved in choir and Academic Quiz Team. Anika has been a Girl Scout for 11 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Community Lifesaver Initiative

Anika worked with the Mason Fire Department and many other local organizations such as schools, community centers, and health organizations to offer free local CPR classes for middle school students and adult community members in underserved areas to improve awareness and skills in life-saving techniques. She focused on making training accessible and

used surveys before and after the sessions to measure participants' confidence, knowledge of CPR, and ability to perform it correctly. She also worked with the department to re-evaluate the current Hands-Only CPR course for middle schoolers to make them more engaging, and able to be accomplished within a class period. Regular, free training sessions will continue to be hosted as a result of the lasting connections and commitments Anika forged between her community organizations.

Kalley Shea

Troop 49237
Mason, OH

Kalley is a graduate of William Mason High School, attending West Virginia University majoring in Animal Science. She was active in sideline cheerleading, competitive cheerleading, and Tumble Bees. Kalley was a Girl Scout for 10 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Rebate 101

Recognizing the financial struggles many face, Kalley launched "Rebate 101" workshops to educate her community on saving money with rebate apps, promoting both financial literacy and tech skills. She organized four sessions publicized through parish bulletins and distributed cards in partnership with the Schuh Center Food Pantry, drawing 30

attendees. Her efforts inspired attendees to begin their own rebate journeys. To ensure sustainability, the Schuh Center will continue to hand out pamphlets that direct the community to a website offering foundational information and resources about rebate apps, fostering ongoing community impact.

Makayla Skinner

Troop 32261
Bellbrook, OH

Makayla is a senior at Bellbrook High School. She is involved in cross country, Hope Squad, and student government. Makayla has been a Girl Scout for 11 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

Bellbrook Storybook Trail



Makayla's goal was to promote children's education and foster a love for nature and reading through the installation of a storybook trail at a local park. She led a team in researching and planning the project, and secured funding by presenting to organizations like the City Council, Lions Club, and Friends of the Library.

With the help of volunteers, storybook posts were installed along the trail. Makayla hosted an opening ceremony and collected data on the trail's impact on children's learning. Her results were positive, with 87.5% of respondents believing children could learn from the stories, and 93.8% feeling the trail helped kids develop valuable reading skills while enjoying the outdoors.

Kathleen Smith

Troop 30630
New Carlisle, OH

Kathleen is a senior at Tecumseh High School. She is involved in E-Sports, Business Professionals of America, and National Technical Honors Society. Kathleen has been a Girl Scout for 12 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

Girl Scouts at the Clark County Fair



Kathleen wanted to increase involvement in youth opportunities for Girl Scouts at the Clark County Fair and improve their opportunities to showcase projects at the fair booth. She attended local troop meetings and other events to talk to Girl Scouts about how to submit projects to the fair booth and build awareness of her project. To fundraise for booth improvements,

she organized a badge day event for troops in her service unit, and with the funding, purchased pre-built structures and materials to enhance the Girl Scout booth area. She and her team reinforced and painted the booth in preparation for its display at the 2024 Clark County Fair.

Joanna Warner

Juliette
Beavercreek, OH

Joanna is a homeschooled sophomore. She is involved in Irish dance, orchestra, and her church's youth group. Joanna has been a Girl Scout for 10 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Sensory Sanctuary

To address challenges in her community related to mental health, such as anxiety and depression, Joanna designed an outdoor sensory garden as a safe space to support mental wellbeing at Aley United Methodist Church. Her garden features plants and outdoor activities designed to stimulate or soothe the five senses, such as hopscotch, a display wall

with musical instruments to play, soft plants for tactile comfort, bright colors for visual stimulation, and peaceful sitting areas to relax, breathe, and smell flowers and herbs. This garden provides a space for people, especially children, to express their emotions safely while connecting with nature.

Celeste Whiteley

Troop 32611
Springboro, OH

Celeste is a graduate of Archbishop Alter High School and attends Wright State University, majoring in Marketing. She was involved in bowling, youth ministry, and community service. Celeste has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.



Pregnancy Center Meditation Room

Celeste created a meditation room at a pregnancy center to support the wellbeing of mothers-to-be. The room is designed to be a peaceful, cozy space with soft lighting, a comfortable bed, and calming music to aid in stress reduction. The room also provides educational resources, such as an online website and pamphlets, teaching women about the

benefits of meditation and how they can incorporate it into their daily lives. Her project demonstrates the pregnancy center's commitment to supporting mothers, while enhancing their pregnancy experience.



Congratulations, Girl Scouts!

Gift a Lifetime Membership

Honoring your graduating Girl Scout with a lifetime membership not only ensures she will remain connected to Girl Scouts for life, but also that she will be a champion for the next generation of changemakers! Your contribution will support Girl Scouts, which gives girls a place to prepare for a lifetime of leadership.

Benefits:

- Lifetime membership card and pin
- Invitation to an annual call for lifetime members hosted by GSUSA's CEO
- Invitations to memorable events
- Monthly Girl Scout Network digital newsletter
- 10% off Girl Scout merchandise purchased online
- Discounts at Joann stores, Trust and Will, and Edith Macy Center

To gift a lifetime membership to a graduating Girl Scout, please contact Customer Care for assistance.

\$200
one-time fee
for ages 18-29

***\$25 of your contribution** automatically funds a year of membership for a Girl Scout in an underserved community in your grad's area.

Gold Award Shine

1916 - 1919 Golden Eagle of Merit

The Golden Eagle of Merit, the highest award in Girl Scouting from 1916 to 1919, marked the beginning of a long tradition of using prestigious awards to recognize girls who make a difference in their communities and in their own lives.

1919 - 1938 Golden Eaglet

The Golden Eaglet Award was the highest award of Girl Scouting from 1919 through 1938. A total of 10,658 Golden Eaglets were awarded.

1938 - 1940 First Class

In 1938, First Class became the highest award. To achieve First Class meant that a girl was an “all-around” person with skills in many fields and proficient in one.

1940 - 1963 Curved Bar

The Curved Bar Award was introduced in 1940 as the highest award for Intermediate Girl Scouts who had completed the rank of First Class.

1963 - 1980 First Class

In 1963 the highest award returned to being called First Class.

1980 - Present Gold Award

Since 1980, the Gold Award has inspired girls to find the greatness inside themselves and share their ideas and passions with their communities. While earning the Gold Award, girls design, plan, and lead a Take Action project that will make a lasting change for the better in their communities and beyond.

Did you know?

All Girl Scout alums who have earned the highest award in Girl Scouting—the Golden Eaglet, First Class, Curved Bar, or the Gold Award—are welcomed into the Gold Award Girl Scout family and may refer to themselves as Gold Award Girl Scouts.

Gold Award Shine

Facts and Figures



Gold Award Girl Scouts spend between 1 and 2 years on their projects.



The average age of Gold Award Girl Scouts is 17.



In over 100 years, one million girls have earned the Gold Award or it's equivalent.



Gold Award Girl Scouts are entitled to enlist at a higher pay grade when they join the military.



University research indicates that adding Gold Award to a college application is a critical element in the admissions decision process.

Share Your Shine

Congratulations on being part of the remarkable group of women who are driving meaningful and lasting change in their communities and beyond! We know how hard you worked to plan and execute your project; now it's time to share your shine.

Join the national Gold Award conversation by posting info about your project to social media using [#gsGoldAward](https://www.instagram.com/gsgoldaward) and tagging [@gswogoldaward](https://www.instagram.com/gswogoldaward)

Show our community the real-life impact your project has had on the world and how earning the Gold Award made a difference in your life!

Special Thanks

A special thank you to the following for their support and dedication to the 2025 Girl Scouts of Western Ohio Gold Award program!

Gold Award Committee Members

Toledo

Sheri Benton
Megan Gardam

Dayton

Sarah Hall
Jolene Hoggatt
Katelyn Lambalot
Lee Lundberg
Kelli Mumma
Jean Sims
Suzanne Valle*
Laura Walters

Cincinnati

Claire Ballard
Terrie Puckett
Monique Sewell
Glenna Stricklett
Dondi Tate

Lima

Phyllis Montrose
Diane Timmerman
Karen Timmerman

** Chair of the
Gold Award Ceremony*

Photographer | Ron Valle

You can find pictures from today's ceremony on Dropbox.
Scan the QR Code to access or visit us online at
dropbox.com/goldpics.



North Region Honor Guard

Thank you to the Girl Scout members of the North Region Honor Guard!

Captain

Ashlyn Woody

Flag Bearers

Devin Goede, Lillian Humes,
Aleera Murry, Ella Rhodes,
Tiffany Hines, Ivy Duncan

Guards

TayAnna Hines, Alaina Gordon,
Olivia Stewart

Advisors & Adult Support

Marianne Duvendack, Sarah Goede,
Joyce Rhodes, Kyle Sevilla

Many thanks to all the family, friends, and volunteers
who helped Gold Award Girl Scouts achieve their goals!



The Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls
of courage, confidence,
and character, who make
the world a better place.

The Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong,
and responsible for what I say and do,
and to respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place,
and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

888.350.5090 | gsw.org
customercare@gsw.org



In Partnership With:

