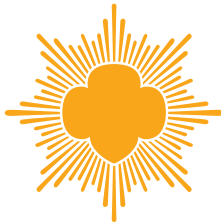


  
girl scouts  
of western ohio



**2019**

**Gold Award  
Ceremony**



**Councilwide Celebration**

Honoring our 2019  
Gold Award Girl Scouts

---

Sunday, March 3, 2019  
3:00 PM

# Program of Events

## **“Canon in D” by Pachelbel**

Kathryn Cordeiro  
Shyanne Salters  
Elizabeth Nitz

Gold Award Recipients

Ruvi Ranatunga

Gold Award Alum

## **Opening**

Suzanne Valle

Gold Ceremony Committee

## **Presentation of the Colors**

Megan Ketner  
Rebecca Dominguez  
Morgan Parrish  
Katy Luebbe  
Madilyn Carson  
Aisha Naik  
Emily Kestermann

Gold Award Recipients

## **National Anthem**

Joelle George  
Autumn Taylor

Gold Award Recipients

## **Girl Scout Promise**

Mackenzie Fleshman

Gold Award Recipient

## **Girl Scout Law**

Dhira Venkatramani

Gold Award Recipient

## **Invocation**

Mary Hamilton

Gold Award Recipient

## **Introduction of Special Guests**

Suzanne Valle

Gold Ceremony Committee

## **Welcome**

Roni Luckenbill

CEO

## **What it takes to earn the Gold**

Madeline Shelton

Gold Award Alum

## **Presentation of Gold Awards I**

Suzanne Valle

Wendy Shelton

Gold Ceremony Committee

Roni Luckenbill

CEO

Victoria Nilles

Board Chair

## **Introduction of Keynote**

Rachel Partington

Gold Award Recipient

## **Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Bleuzette Marshall

Vice President for Equality,  
Inclusion & Community Impact  
University of Cincinnati

## **Presentation of Speaker Gift**

Sloane Harris

Gold Award Recipient

## **Presentation of Gold Awards II**

Suzanne Valle

Wendy Shelton

Roni Luckenbill

Victoria Nilles

## **Passing the light and spirit of Girl Scouts**

Olivia Core

Gold Award Recipient

## **“Juliette” Song**

Madeline Shelton

Gold Award Alum

## **Closing Remarks**

Suzanne Valle

Gold Ceremony Committee

# Keynote



## **BLEUZETTE MARSHALL, PH.D. | UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI**

Bleuzette Marshall aims to make the University of Cincinnati a model of inclusive excellence. A respected member of the university's administration, she leads a range of efforts including managing compliance programs related to Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, and Title IX; implementing the Diversity & Inclusion Plan; co-chairing the President's

Diversity Council; and establishing practices that build a diverse community (students, faculty, staff, and suppliers).

Her work extends into the community: She created and convenes a roundtable for chief diversity officers that serves as a resource and think tank to advance equity and inclusion across the Cincinnati region.

An alumna of the University of Cincinnati and its prestigious Darwin T. Turner Scholars Program, Bleuzette earned a B.A. in Psychology, a M.Ed. in Educational Foundations, and a Ph.D. in Educational Studies. Her career spans more than two decades of roles in advancement, alumni affairs, diversity and inclusion, facilitation, organizational development, project management, student affairs and teaching.

Her extensive community involvement includes serving on the boards of the Cincinnati Recreation Foundation, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Public Media Connect, the African American Chamber, and Project ArtReach. She is also a member of the Cincinnati Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the Greater Cincinnati Hispanic Scholarship Fund Celebración, and St. James A.M.E. Church - Covington.

Bleuzette has been recognized with the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission's Champion for Connecting Cultures & Communities Award, the King Legacy Award, the National Diversity Council's Glass Ceiling Award, the Cincinnati Association's 2016 Donald & Marian Spencer Spirit of America Award, and the UC Alumni Association Mosaic Award.

# History of the Girl Scout Highest Award

## 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 went back 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?

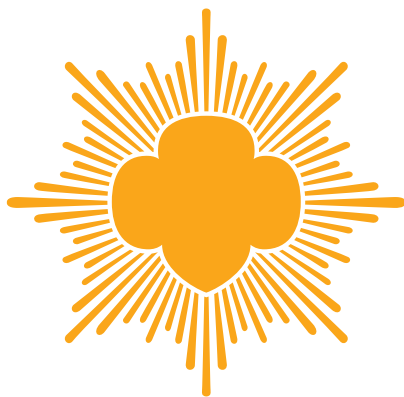
All Girl Scout alums who have earned the highest award in Girl Scouting—the Golden Eaglet, First Class, Curved Bar, or the Gold Award—are welcomed into the Gold Award Girl Scout family and may refer to themselves as Gold Award Girl Scouts.



# The Girl Scout Gold Award

Since 1916, Girl Scouts have been making meaningful, sustainable change in their communities and around the world. The Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn, acknowledges the power behind each recipient's dedication to not only empowering and bettering herself, but also to making the world a better place for others.

These young women are courageous leaders and visionary change makers. They are our future, and it looks bright!



## Recipients

Anja Bally | 7

Ava Batsel | 7

Renee Bauer | 8

Alli Beard | 8

Emma Beck | 9

Kelsey Brown | 9

Madilyn Carson | 10

Kathryn Cordeiro | 10

Olivia Core | 11

Chloe Cunningham | 11

Rebecca Dominguez | 12

Valerie Dranchak | 12

Mackenzie Fleshman | 13

Joelle George | 13

Mary Hamilton | 14

Sloane Harris | 14

Taylor Huff | 15

Jenna Janesch | 15

Emily Kestermann | 16

Megan Ketner | 16

Kaylee Lade | 17

Katy Luebbe | 17

Hannah McDaniel | 18

Stephanie Mullins | 18

Aisha Naik | 19

Elizabeth Nitz | 19

Morgan Parrish | 20

Rachel Partington | 20

Janaki Patel | 21

Jodie Pierce | 21

Maria Richards | 22

Andrea Rodeheffer | 22

Grace Rudolph | 23

Shyanne Salters | 23

Sarah Schonauer | 24

Elysia Smith | 24

Libby Spera | 25

Alex Stelter | 25

Autumn Taylor | 26

Camille Vainrib | 26

Dhira Venkatramani | 27

Eileen Yang | 27



## ANJA BALLY | LEBANON, OH

Anja, a senior at Springboro High School, is involved with Student Council, National Honor Society, and is the Vice President of her 4-H Club. She has been in Girl Scouts for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**RECREATING GARDENING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS**—Anja designed a pollinator garden at Otterbein Retirement Home. Originally, Anja decided to plant the garden to help the local bee and butterfly population. As she progressed, the focus of her project shifted to bringing joy to the residents at Otterbein through the beautification of their outdoor space. As Anja worked on the garden, she met the residents and learned that her garden was the hot topic buzzing around the community center. Therapy patients even began exercising in front of the windows that faced the garden! Anja threw a “Bee Party” to dedicate the garden to the residents at Otterbein. She shared her knowledge of pollinators and flowering plants, and had them create garden stones. Otterbein residents and the landscaping crew will continue to maintain the garden.



## AVA BATSEL | CINCINNATI, OH

Ava, a junior at Wyoming High School, is involved with Student Council, Track, and Swimming. She has been in Girl Scouts for 8 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**ROSELAWN CONDON COURTYARD ENHANCEMENT**—After observing the scant courtyard at Roselawn Condon - an elementary school in a low-income neighborhood - Ava envisioned transforming the space into an inviting area that would make students feel comfortable, safe, and engaged with outdoor learning. Ava designed and implemented an outdoor learning venue where students could get outside of the traditional classroom to enjoy hands-on educational experience. She weeded flower beds, built an elevated planter to grow vegetables in, added bird feeders, and designed interactive components as activities for students. Students helped by painting pots, planting produce, and beautifying the space with chalk art. Ava worked with students over the summer and educated them on using the space to get in touch with nature. Students and teachers now regularly use the space for learning and play.



Troop 49451

## RENEE BAUER | SUNMAN, IN

Renee, who is homeschooled, is involved with Teen Pact, and mission trips. She has been in Girl Scouts for 9 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**OPERATION RAPPIN' TAPPIN'**—Renee loves working with children, and wanted to help those who are less fortunate than herself. Renee knew that music helps children develop reasoning skills as well as hand-eye coordination. Renee partnered with Edelweiss House, which provides a temporary home for children who cannot live with their parents, which did not have a music education program. Renee built a music wall where instruments can be hung outside. When Renee met with the children at Edelweiss House, she taught them how to make home-made musical instruments from everyday household supplies. She also taught the students how to play the instruments, and even included a singing lesson from a music teacher in her community. Renee also built storage space for the musical instruments so that Edelweiss House can continue the music lessons each year.



Troop 47006

## ALLI BEARD | SUNMAN, IN

Alli is a senior at East Central High School. Alli is involved with FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America), tennis, golf, and National Honors Society. She has been in Girl Scouts for 10 years and earned her Bronze Award.

**P.U.F.F. (PEOPLE UNITE FOR FURRY FRIENDS)**—Alli partnered with the Ripley County Humane Society to raise awareness about the growing numbers of rescues in shelters and the importance of connecting these pets with loving owners. Alli coordinated multiple drives and community-based educational events to help support the Humane Society. She recruited volunteers to attend her workshops, where she taught them how to create hand-made pet toys, tie blankets, and treats. Alli packaged these items into “Pet Parcels” as an incentive to those adopting animals. Alli hosted a program at the Humane Society to raise awareness of the shelter’s role in the community and the importance of finding loving owners for pets. Thanks to Alli’s Gold Award project, the shelter has become more established within the community and now has a larger circle of active volunteers.





## EMMA BECK | CINCINNATI, OH

Emma is a freshman at the University of Cincinnati in the College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning. In high school, Emma was involved in French Club, Slam Dunk for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and was a nanny. She has been in Girl Scouts for 13 years and earned her Silver Award.

**PROFESSIONAL MAKEUP=SELF-ESTEEM**—Emma learned that Dress for Success, a nonprofit organization that provides lower socioeconomic women with professional attire to secure employment, did not have the resources to educate their clients about makeup application. Emma kick-started her project with a makeup supply drive. She packaged the donations into totes to gift to clients at an outfit fitting day, where she offered instruction on how to use the various products and explained the benefits to sporting tasteful makeup for an interview. Emma developed a brochure for clients to help them navigate a variety of makeup products and learn techniques for application, including links to detailed video tutorials that Emma created. Emma trained Dress for Success employees to continue educating their clients on makeup application techniques, various products, and the link to self-esteem.



## KELSEY BROWN | CINCINNATI, OH

Kelsey, a senior at Mariemont High School, is involved with Mariemont Varsity Softball and Youth Fellowship. She has been in Girl Scouts for 10 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**WARRIOR YOUTH SOFTBALL SKILLS ENHANCEMENT**—Kelsey noticed a decreasing interest in softball among the youth in her community, and she didn't want to see the sport decline. Kelsey found that the root cause to be the lack of a skills clinic for younger girls. Many girls do not feel confident trying out for the softball team if they don't feel they have the skills to succeed. Kelsey organized and implemented a softball skills clinic in her community in order to increase the skill level, confidence, and self-esteem of younger girls, in hopes to revitalize interest in the sport. Those who attended Kelsey's clinic increased their softball skills, and had the opportunity to learn from older students who served as positive role models to the younger girls. The varsity softball team has agreed to continue Kelsey's softball clinic annually to ensure that younger girls are given the opportunity to improve their softball skills and gain interest in the sport.



## MADILYN CARSON | DAYTON, OH

Madilyn, a senior at East Dayton Christian School, is in NHS (VP), Student Government (VP), Basketball, Track, Cross Country and Softball (all Varsity). She has been in Girl Scouts for 13 years and earned her Silver Award.

**RECIPES TO END HUNGER**—Madilyn volunteered at local food pantries and saw that customers only selected convenience type foods that could be easily prepared. To encourage better health and nutrition, Madilyn created easy recipes with fresh items from the food pantries and handed out samples at With God's Grace Food Pantry and The Foodbank (Dayton). She made recipe cards of all her samples for patrons to take home. Some of her recipes included meatless lasagna helper, fruit salad, PB fig crackers and ham with noodles. Madilyn felt the most successful aspect of her project was handing out the samples herself, explaining her project and interacting with people. By being there every week, she developed a rapport with the patrons, and they told her how they made her recipes and even passed them along to others.



## KATHRYN CORDEIRO | CENTERVILLE, OH

A 2018 graduate of Centerville High School, Kathryn is a freshman at University of California, Santa Barbara majoring in Chemistry. In high school, Kathryn was in NHS, Centerville Alternative Strings (violin), GSWO Board of Directors and chaired the 2018 CSA Leadership Conference Committee. She has been in Girl Scouts for 12 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**AWARENESS OUTREACH**—Kathryn's project addressed low self-esteem in students and a lack of awareness for clubs and community groups. Low self-esteem is often caused by a lack of involvement which leads to strong feelings of inadequacy. Kathryn developed and implemented a school activity fair which was held during freshman orientation. Overall, she had around 25 clubs and groups participate which included CHS: Clubs, Activities, Athletics and Arts. Several community groups were involved as well, such as WTRC, Martial Arts, the Parks District, Laser Web, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Kathryn's fair impacted around 600 students and parents, who were quite interested in the number of options available at the school and in the community. She created a binder listing every club and what they have to offer and gave it to the school to use as a source of reference.



## OLIVIA CORE | MASON, OH

Olivia is a senior at Ursuline Academy. She is involved in Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Student Government, and Harmony Diversity & Inclusion Initiative. Olivia has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**STEP INTO STEM**—Olivia saw that many of her friends who were minorities did not necessarily see themselves going into STEM careers. Olivia found that one of the most important factors for students to pursue STEM careers is having exposure to STEM early in life, so she created a STEM camp for students at an elementary school that caters to primarily African-American and low-income students. Her goal was to spark their interest in STEM and for this experience to allow them to start seeing themselves in a STEM career from an early age. Each day focused on different STEM subjects, and a featured a guest speaker who works or studies that particular topic. Olivia passed on her curriculum to the teacher she worked with to develop the camp so that it can continue annually.



## CHLOE CUNNINGHAM | WEST CHESTER, OH

Chloe, a senior at Lakota West High School, is involved with Peer Counseling, Bowling, and National Honor Society. She has been in Girl Scouts for 10 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**FIREBIRD COMMUNITY COMMITMENT PROGRAM**—With a new Boys & Girls Club building doubling in size from the previous facility in her community, Chloe realized that the center needed more volunteers to support twice as many children. Chloe's vision was to connect Lakota West volunteers to serve as mentors at the Boys & Girls Club. To incentivize participation, Chloe developed certificates to give to students based on tiers of hours served. Chloe recruited, trained, and coordinated 22 new volunteers to support the new facility. Chloe tracked that her program fostered over 250 hours of community service hours of student support to the Boys & Girls Club. Chloe's program raised awareness among students about the challenges poverty brings upon youth in their community. Peer Counselors plan to continue Chloe's model by managing the Firebird Community Commitment Program.



## REBECCA DOMINGUEZ | SAINT MARYS, OH

Rebecca, a junior at St. Marys Memorial High School, participates in band, cheerleading, dance, and track. She has been in Girl Scouts for 12 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

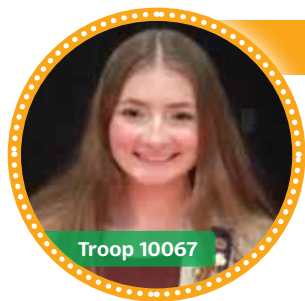
**HONORING HOMETOWN HEROES**—To bring her community together and celebrate local veterans, Rebecca partnered with the VFW and the city to solicit information and photos of local veterans which they used to create and hang 70 banners featuring veterans around the downtown. Rebecca created a Facebook page where she shared the banners which reached over 5,000 people and she also organized a celebration on Veterans Day. The city and the VFW agreed to continue her project and have plans to add another 63 banners to honor more local heroes.



## VALERIE DRANCHAK | BEAVERCREEK, OH

Valerie is a senior at Chaminade Julianne Catholic High School. Valerie is a member of the tennis team (varsity) and F.L.I.G.H.T. She has been in Girl Scouts for 11 years and earned her Silver Award.

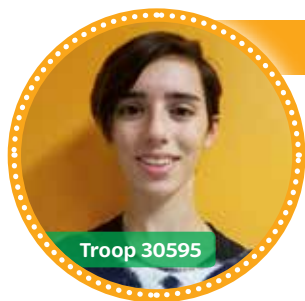
**OWEN'S PLACE FRIENDS**—Valerie's project focused on getting kids with all abilities to interact and socialize with each other. She started a club (Owen's Place Friends Club) at St. Luke School, which consisted of twenty-three 7th and 8th graders. The focus of the club was to teach kids about disabilities, particularly Autism and Downs Syndrome and how to interact and socialize with each other. Valerie gave excellent presentations that encompassed videos and hands on activities to educate the members of the club so they could interact with special needs children. She hosted an Owen's Place Friends Club Party that included ten children with various disabilities and members of the club at St. Luke. Activities included an icebreaker, water games, visit from a service dog and snacks. Everyone enjoyed interacting with each other.



## MACKENZIE FLESHMAN | BOWLING GREEN, OH

Mackenzie, a junior at Bowling Green High School, plays both high school and club soccer, as well as participating in Chorale, Solo and Ensemble Contest, Guitar/Ukulele Club, and Spanish Club. She has been in Girl Scouts for 12 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**BLACK SWAMP PRESERVE BUTTERFLY PROJECT**—Because she cares about preserving the ecosystem and enjoys teaching others, Mackenzie decided to partner with the Wood County Park District and The Ohio Lepidopterists Society to protect local butterflies through habitat creation, data collection, and education. She led a team of volunteers to plant a butterfly garden and then monitor the area for 32 weeks. She created a sign and brochures to inform visitors and hosted a grand opening event to draw awareness to the garden and the butterflies that live there. Volunteers have already stepped up to maintain the garden and continue the data collection. Mackenzie hopes her efforts will inspire others to respect, attract, and protect butterflies, ultimately increasing the butterfly population in the area.



## JOELLE GEORGE | CENTERVILLE, OH

Joelle is a junior at Archbishop Alter High School. Joelle is in Marching Band (percussion and woodwind), Alter Castle Players, and Dance Team (school and community). She has been in Girl Scouts for 13 years and has earned the Bronze and Silver Awards.

**PROJECT S.H.I.N.E.**—Joelle has been involved in dance since she was 2. She wanted to introduce young girls to different types of dance and choreography, all while focusing on positive self-esteem, healthy mind and spirit. Joelle held a 5-day camp for girls ages 8 to 10. Each 3-hour camp day consisted of hip-hop and jazz basics, exercises and eating healthy. She also focused on mental health, self-esteem, body issues and the effect of social media on these topics. Joelle had between 7 and 9 girls at her camp with 2 assistants helping her. On the last day of camp, the parents came and got to see the girls perform their two dance routines they had learned. After the camp was over, Joelle was approached by some mothers who told her how much their daughter's behavior had changed for the better because of the camp.



## MARY HAMILTON | SPRINGBORO, OH

Mary is a senior at Springboro High School. Mary is in Marching Band (percussionist), Winter Percussion activities and High School musicals. She has been in Girl Scouts for 10 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**UNITED NATIONS: LEARN AND SERVE**—Mary is an active participant in her church, Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. She wanted the church to become more involved with UU-UNO (UU - United Nations Office). Mary developed and implemented the UU-UNO Envoy program at her church. Every spring, there is a Seminar held at the United Nations in NYC that youth and adults from UU-UNO Envoy programs can attend. Mary has attended the past 2 years. This seminar focuses on human rights issues that have global impact. Mary also created a subcommittee of the UU-UNO Social Action Committee so youth and adult envoys can be appointed annually to attend the Seminar. This will assure her church will always have participation. She also spoke at two UUF churches in Cincinnati to get them to establish the Envoy Program. Mary was the first youth to be recognized as an Unsung Hero at her church!



## SLOANE HARRIS | CINCINNATI, OH

Sloane is a freshman at Northwestern University. In high school, she was involved in Student Congress, Science Olympiad, and volunteered at Bethesda North Hospital. She has been in Girl Scouts for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**ROAD TO MEDICINE**—Sloane, having observed that there are not many African-American women in the medical field, felt strongly that minority patients would be more comfortable opening up to doctors that they can relate to. This inspired her to expose young girls of color to professional African-American women working in the medical field. Sloane designed a six-week after school club at Douglas Elementary where she worked with sixth grade girls to spark their interest in pursuing a medical career. The series focused on anatomical science, with a female doctor making an appearance at one of the sessions. Sloane educated the girls about careers they could work towards, and served as a role model. Sloane's club will be absorbed by the Greater Cincinnati STEM Collaborative to continue to inspire girls of color to pursue medical careers.





## TAYLOR HUFF | BEAVERCREEK, OH

Taylor is a senior at Beavercreek High School. Taylor is in Gymnastics, Athletic Training and is a Student Aide. She has been in Girl Scouts for 8 years and has earned her Silver Award.

**STEM DAY CAMP**—Taylor chose to create and implement a STEM day camp because she wanted to raise awareness of STEM occupations for kids in her community. She held a four-day camp at Quest Gymnastics and Extreme Sports Center in Beavercreek for around 20 participants in grades 3 through 6. Each day was a different theme. Day 1 focused on springs in our daily lives, made slime and went through an obstacle course. Day 2 consisted of making paper airplanes and had a guest speaker from Wright Patterson Air Force Base. Day 3 focused on making popsicle stick bridges and a fun activity with Mentos and Coke. The last day the kids had fun making robots and mouse trap cars. The camp was a huge success, and Quest Gymnastics has decided to continue it next year.



## JENNA JANESCH | MONROE, OH

Jenna, a senior at Monroe Sr. High School, is involved in Marching Band, National Honor Society, and is a lead singer in the youth group at First Church of God. She has been in Girl Scouts for 10 years and earned her Silver Award.

**SOCIAL STORY FOR RIDING CENTER**—Jenna connected with the Therapeutic Riding Institute (TRI), which offers equine-assisted services to people with disabilities. Jenna learned that individuals at the institute often times cannot get involved in an activity because they are unaware of what is happening to them, leading to anxiety with the activity. Jenna decided to create a social story book - a step-by-step graphic resource that helps riders process and understand the different types of activities they will participate in - for the clients. Jenna worked with TRI staff to choreograph activity scenes for the social story book. Jenna meticulously designed, edited, and bound the book. She distributed hard copies and an electronic file for TRI to keep on hand, and plans to continue creating new social story books to assist riders at the center.



## EMILY KESTERMANN | MIDDLETOWN, OH

Emily is a junior at Monroe/Butler Tech Natural Science Center. Emily is involved with Marching Band, National Honor Society, and Youth Group. Emily has been in Girl Scouts for 10 years and earned her Silver Award.

**FOREVER THE FLAG**—Emily noticed that very few people have seen a Flag Retirement Ceremony, and were unaware of flag etiquette. To change this, Emily set up several collection bins for old flags, performed Flag Retirement Ceremonies for her community, and made several how-to videos for different types of Flag Retirement Ceremonies. She also gathered volunteers to place markers on veteran's graves at a local cemetery. Emily created a website to host the videos, along with information on her collection bins. Emily also coordinated the creation and delivery of several American flag painted skids to give to veterans to thank them for their service. Monroe Public works and the local VFW will continue to have the flag collection bins that a local troop will collect from to perform Flag Retirement Ceremonies.



## MEGAN KETNER | OTTAWA, OH

Megan is a sophomore at Ottawa-Glandorf High School. Megan participates in the Marching Band/ Concert Band/ Pep Band at school, and is a member of P.A.R.T.Y. (Putnam Adolescent Response Team for Youth). She has been a Girl Scout for 11 years and earned her Silver Award.

**BICYCLE RODEO/BICYCLE INSPECTION**—Megan took on this project to educate children on the safe way to ride a bicycle and avoid accidents. She organized and led a one-day bicycle rodeo and inspection for the children of her community. The children first had their bikes inspected for any problems or hazards, then had their helmets properly fitted to their heads. Finally all the children then were put through many stations teaching them about starting, stopping, and looking before pulling out into the road. Her project is going to be continued on with the Glandorf Park Board at the annual Glandorf Park Fest.





## KAYLEE LADE | BEAVERCREEK, OH

Kaylee, a sophomore at Beavercreek High School, is in High School Girl Scout Club. She has been in Girl Scouts for 11 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**CREATIVE COMMUNITY ART**—Kaylee sought to inspire others who might need a creative outlet. She wanted to show how important art is in their community. Kaylee designed and painted murals in two family-style bathrooms at Angels Pass Park in Beavercreek. The Park Board provided all the funding. Each bathroom had a different theme: one was Spring and the other was Fall. Kaylee and her team started by prepping the bathrooms for painting. It took at least 12 days for the details to be painted. Details included pumpkins, bicycle riders and walkers on the path, birds, flowers, trees and ponds. Kaylee finished it off with a graffiti proof sealant. The bathrooms were showcased during ArtFest, where over 2,000 people saw her results. Kaylee was given a lot of positive feedback, which shows the huge impact of her project in a short period of time.



## KATY LUEBBE | MIDDLETOWN, OH

Katy is a sophomore at Monroe Sr. High School. Katy is involved with soccer. She has been in Girl Scouts for 10 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**SNOWBALL DANCE**—From her time spent working with the elderly, Katy observed that they often mentioned how they wished they could go back to “the good ole days.” After doing her research Katy settled on coordinating a snowball-themed “prom” for nursing home & senior center residents. Katy fundraised money to fuel her project and delegated logistical tasks to her volunteer team to prepare for the event. Katy organized refreshments, raffles, games, music, and a photographer. She recruited 30 senior citizens to attend her dance—and they all had a blast! The attendees all left smiling ear-to-ear and had a chance to break up their regular routines and meet new people. Katy plans to work with Girl Scouts in her service unit to make this an annual event to continue spreading the joy.



## HANNAH MCDANIEL | CINCINNATI, OH

Hannah graduated from Loveland High School in 2018, and is a freshman at University of Cincinnati with a major in Middle School Education. Hannah is involved with Drama, and Christ's Fellowship of Little Miami Youth Group. She has been in Girl Scouts for 13 years and earned her Silver Award.

**GROVEPORT BOOK CART**—When Hannah learned that the Groveport Community School in Lancaster, Ohio did not have a library in the building, she worried that the students there would fall behind due to their lack of access to reading materials. Hannah recruited volunteers to help her build a mobile book cart for the school, which would serve as a mobile library allowing their book collection to be shared between multiple classrooms. She also held a book drive, which stocked her cart full of books, and some games. These collections were placed into the cart to be shared amongst classrooms, and extra books were placed into storage tubs at the school. Hannah created a catalog system for the books to keep them organized, which she shared with the school.



## STEPHANIE MULLINS | BEAVERCREEK, OH

Stephanie is a senior at Beavercreek High School. Stephanie is in Color Guard (fall – Captain), Winter Guard and 4-H Club President (woodworking). She has been in Girl Scouts for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

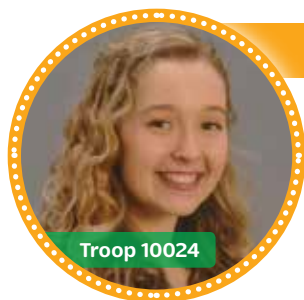
**SPIN, TOSS, CATCH: COLOR GUARD**—Stephanie wanted to bring awareness to the middle schools and Girl Scout troops in Beavercreek about the art of Color Guard. Her goal was to teach color guard basics to kids to encourage participation in high school guard. In order to encourage learning, Stephanie had 10 helpers with a ratio of four students per helper. The skills that were taught were drop spins, cones, row boats, and pop tosses. She taught three Girl Scout troops at various workshops. She also taught the gym classes at both Coy and Ankeney Middle Schools in Beavercreek. Overall, she impacted 360 children. Throughout her Gold Award project, Stephanie gained confidence to be a leader, which prompted her to audition for the Beavercreek High School Color Guard Captain and was selected for the 2018 school year.



## AISHA NAIK | CENTERVILLE, OH

Aisha is a senior at Centerville High School. Aisha is in NHS, National Spanish Honor Society, Cross Country, DECA and Octagon Club. She has been in Girl Scouts for 10 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**ELKS FOR SENIORS SUMMER PROGRAM**—Aisha’s project addressed the awareness of the generational gap between youth in society and senior citizens. Elks are the mascot for Centerville High School, which is where she got her volunteers. Aisha has volunteered at St. Leonard Living Communities for four years and noticed how the senior citizens tended to get lonely and inactive due to lack of visitors. She created and implemented a summer program where CHS students would be paired with residents at St. Leonard. The 22 volunteers were paired weekly with seniors in three main departments: Kitchen and Dining Room, Traditional Assisted Living and Memory Care. They focused on building personal connections with activities such as planting flowers, in room visits and playing cards. Overall Aisha’s project impacted over 500 residents and was a big hit.



## ELIZABETH NITZ | MONCLOVA, OH

Elizabeth is a junior at Anthony Wayne High School and participates in the Toledo Zoo teens. She has been a Girl Scout for 12 years and has earned her Bronze and Silver awards.

**TOLEDO GROWS CHILDREN GARDEN**—The children’s garden at Toledo Grows serves 600 children a year, but was small and had only a few beds. The area was not interesting or interactive to help attract and inspire children in this urban setting. Elizabeth started work, building eight structures within the space, along with a rain gutter garden. Her mission is to inspire people to grow their own food, utilize organic, sustainable gardening, and develop ways for those who live in urban settings to be able to garden as well. Her class that she developed, along with the garden are continuing to be used by Toledo Grows in its programming with schools and groups.



## MORGAN PARRISH | MONROE, OH

Morgan, a sophomore at Monroe High School, is involved with Marching Band, National Honor Society, and Youth Group. Morgan has been in Girl Scouts for 7 years and earned her Silver Award.

**THE NATURE PROJECT**—Morgan saw that Dudley Memorial Park, located in her community, was not well cared for and was not being utilized to its full potential. Morgan organized volunteers from her community to help clear trails, and dig a trench to help decrease flooding of the trails. She also created educational signs that were placed along the trails. When the revamp was complete, Morgan hosted a reveal party for her community to see the new and improved park. Since Morgan's initial work party, she has gone back once to continue to maintain the trails, and plans to host another work party at the Dudley Memorial Park for her Service Unit in the Spring. Morgan's Service Unit will continue to have annual events to maintain the trails so that visitors can continue to enjoy the park.



## RACHEL PARTINGTON | MINSTER, OH

Rachel is a senior at Marion Local High School and participates in band, volleyball, and the Catholic Youth Organization. She has been in Girl Scouts for 12 years and earned her Silver Award.

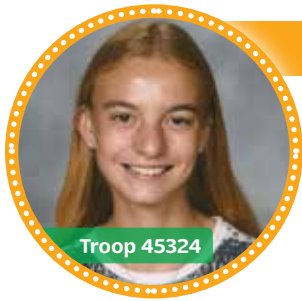
**A SPOT FOR THOUGHT**—Wanting to give back to her community in a way that shows others nature's beauty and also positively impacts mental health, Rachel worked with the Maria Stein Spiritual Center and community volunteers to design and install an outdoor space at their new facility in Montezuma whose landscaping and features encourages the center's guests in prayer and reflection. She also created tutorial videos to help others learn how to plant and care for perennials and uploaded them to social media. The Spiritual Center agreed to maintain the landscaping and encourage use of the space.



## JANAKI PATEL | MAUMEE, OH

Janaki is a 2018 graduate of Anthony Wayne High School and is currently attending the University of Illinois, at Chicago, majoring in Occupational Therapy. She worked on the girl planning team for the 2017 Girl Scout National Convention in Columbus, Ohio. She has been in Girl Scouts for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**RESTORATION & PRESERVATION OF A GIRL SCOUT CAMP FOR THE TOLEDO METROPARKS**—Janaki partnered with the Toledo Metroparks to build tent pads at the Pine Ridge Chalet site in the Oak Openings Metropark to enable more people to experience camping. Because the property had been a Girl Scout Camp, she also created a sign commemorating the history of the property and spread awareness of Girl Scouts.



## JODIE PIERCE | FAIRBORN, OH

Jodie is a junior at Beaver Creek High School. Jodie is in NHS, Cross Country (Varsity), Track (4x8 relay – 2nd at State and 2 mile) and Creek Crew. She has been in Girl Scouts for 11 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ART**—Jodie, is very passionate about art and she sought to improve the social and creative skills of children so they can grow up to be creative thinkers. Many kids don't have the means to make crafts, so she wanted to give kids in her community this opportunity. Jodie and other Girl Scouts painted canvases with inspirational messages and donated them to the Dayton YWCA. Jodie also implemented and ran a four-day camp at House of Hope in Xenia for the kids staying there. She focused on crafts and cooking for around eight children from ages 2 to 10. Activities included making tie pillows, patriotic bracelets, chalk drawings and paper fish. Snack making included snow cones, decorating sugar cookies, jello and ice cream. Jodie felt it was extremely rewarding seeing how excited the kids got when they did the activities at her camp.



## MARIA RICHARDS | FAIRFIELD, OH

Maria graduated from Stephen T. Badin High School in 2018, and is a freshman at University of Cincinnati with a major in Exploratory Studies with plans to go into film or forensics. Maria is involved with tennis, creating films, and volunteering at a basketball camp. She has been in Girl Scouts for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**"DARKNESS VERSUS THE MIND" SHORT FILM**—Maria self-directed a short film, called “Darkness Versus The Mind,” that would tell her story of fighting mental illness, and help others relate to those who have suffered mental illness. She felt that a short film with a powerful message that would stick with people would be the best way to combat mental health stigma. Maria taught herself how to edit and animate a film, recruited friends to act in the film, and when it was all finished she posted it to Youtube for the world to see. Throughout the process of creating her film and sharing it, Maria wrote a blog to share her progress, and what she learned along the way. “Darkness Versus The Mind” is now shared with students at Lakota Junior High Schools.



## ANDREA RODEHEFFER | MINSTER, OH

Andrea is a junior at Fort Loramie High School from Minster, OH. Andrea participates in pole vault club, drama club, and Skills USA. She has been in Girl Scouts for 11 years and earned her Silver Award.

**PLAQUES FOR LAKEVIEW TRAIL AT LAKE LORAMIE STATE PARK**—Andrea worked with the park staff and volunteers at Lake Loramie State Park to design and install informational trail signs along a hiking trail that educate hikers on native animals, plants, and insects. She also created brochures for the park visitors that provide additional activities along the trail to enhance the hiking experience. The park naturalists plan to feature the trail signs and brochures as part of future educational guided hikes.



## GRACE RUDOLPH | CENTERVILLE, OH

Grace, a 2018 graduate of Centerville High School, is a freshman at Ohio Wesleyan University majoring in Early Childhood Education. In high school Grace was in NHS, Golf Team (Varsity), Study Buddies and Knitting Club. She has been in Girl Scouts for 12 years and earned her Silver Award.

**WILDFLOWER GUIDE**—Grace combined her passion for photography, nature and educating children into a program that benefited The Voyager after school program and the Centerville Washington Township Park District. She especially wanted to address the lack of knowledge regarding the plants in the Centerville parks. Grace worked with about 15 children in the Voyager after school program at Cline Elementary once a week for several months. She taught them about many different poisonous and invasive plant species in a fun and exciting setting. Examples include making slime as fungus, buckeye bracelets, and coloring sheets on each plant. Grace offered a community wildflower photography class at Bill Yeck Park to learn how to create professional images of flowers. She made several permanent laminated wildflower guides and gave them to the park district.

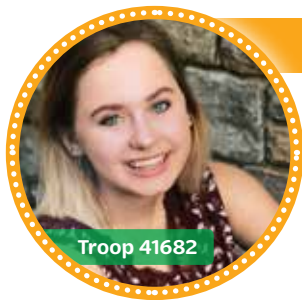


## SHYANNE SALTERS | NEW CARLISLE, OH

Shyanne is a senior at Tecumseh High School. She is in NHS, Marching Band (flute, tuba, drums.) She has been in Girl Scouts for 9 years and earned her Silver Award.

**A BIT OF HOME**—As a child, Shyanne was diagnosed with HSP, a disorder that causes bleeding in small blood vessels throughout the body. Her fondest memory from her treatments was a nurse searching through a closet to find a blanket because she was freezing. Shyanne was inspired to give back to Dayton Children's by making fleece tie blankets for distribution to their patients. She enlisted the help of Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops in making the blankets. Overall, Shyanne and her team made 152 twin bed sized blankets. She delivered the blankets to Dayton Children's with the help of her team. Policy prohibited her from personally delivering blankets to individual patients, but as a child was leaving, a doctor pulled her over to have Shyanne give her a blanket to take home. Shyanne still has her blanket and holds it nearest and dearest to her heart.





## SARAH SCHONAUER | CINCINNATI, OH

Sarah is a senior at Anderson High School. She is involved with Theatre, Contemporary Young Adults, and she has a part-time job at Chipotle. Sarah has been in Girl Scouts for 12 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**CREATIVE KITS**—Knowing that she has been very fortunate to have the resources to express her creativity, Sarah wanted to give others in her community who have less resources the chance to love art and creativity as much as she does. Sarah collected donations of art supplies and put together tote bags, called “Creativity Kits,” to donate to charities in her community, which were then distributed to children in need. Additionally, Sarah planned numerous hands-on art activities and projects for the organizations that she partnered with, including the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Cincinnati, The Central Clinic Behavioral Health, and St. Vincent DePaul. Sarah created a binder with the activities that she planned, and passed it onto a younger Girl Scout troop so that they can continue this work.



## ELYSIA SMITH | BEAVERCREEK, OH

Elysia is a 2018 graduate of Beavercreek High School. She is currently a freshman at Wright State University majoring in Neuroscience. In high school Elysia was in Jr. Optimist International (President), Student Council (Committee Head) and a Sports Medicine Athletic Trainer. She has been in Girl Scouts for 12 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**FIRST AID AND HYGIENE EDUCATION**—Elysia’s project addressed the issues of proper hygiene (including dental) and basic first aid and how the lack of these simple practices impacts the daily attendance and health of the students. She focused her attention on Fairview Elementary in Dayton, which has a high population of ESL students. Elysia assembled over 100 dental hygiene and first aid kits to hand out. She taught classes (1st – 3rd grades) on hygiene and first aid with interactive activities, impacting over 200 children. Activities included proper hand washing and using the Dental Bear to show proper tooth brushing. Elysia also volunteered in the clinic twice a week to screen kids for hearing and reading issues. In the long term, volunteering at Fairview influenced her chosen career path to help in third world countries.





## LIBBY SPERA | CINCINNATI, OH

Libby, is a junior at Wyoming High School. Libby swims competitively for Wyoming High School & the Cincinnati Marlins, serves on the leadership team for Model UN, and is involved with mission work through the Presbyterian church of Wyoming. She has been in Girl Scouts for 10 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**LENDING LIBRARIES FOR GARY**—After taking a mission trip to McDowell County, West Virginia, the poorest county in the nation, Libby learned that it was financially challenging for families to prioritize providing books for their children. As reading shaped Libby into the person she is today, it was extremely important to her to know that all children in this community would have the opportunity to be positively influenced by books. Libby set out to coordinate a large-scale book drive through her church, where she collected over three hundred books to start. From there, she built three Little Libraries to transport to McDowell County so they could have access to free books. After delivering the libraries, Libby developed contacts with staple organizations in McDowell County to support the replenishing of books and upkeep of her project.



## ALEX STELTER | MIAMISBURG, OH

Alex, a 2018 graduate of Bishop Fenwick High School, is currently a freshman at University of Cincinnati majoring in Business. Alex was on the Bowling Team, Ski Club and a CIT at Camp Whip Poor Will. She has been in Girl Scouts for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**HOPE CLUB**—Alex wanted to create a club at her high school that would introduce students to various service organizations in the area. She founded HOPE Club (Helping Others Praying Endlessly) mainly for underclassmen so they could choose organizations to complete their required service hours. Meetings were held twice a month, with one meeting being an outing. Organizations they visited included Abilities First, Hope House, BOGG, The Woodlands of Middletown, PAWS and House of Bread. All outings consisted of a tour and explanation of what the organization did. They also spent time volunteering in various ways such as working with students, sorting donations and serving food. As part of the club's Mission Statement, students were invited from multiple grade schools who were led in a service project and team building games.



## AUTUMN TAYLOR | WATERLOO, OH

Autumn is a homeschooled senior. Autumn is in Kettering Children's Choir, Paramount Players of Ashland, KY, Wonders of Wonders Youth group and R.O.C.K. She has been in Girl Scouts for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**LITTER AWARENESS & CLEANUP**—Autumn lives in Wayne National Forest and is very worried by all the trash and illegal dumping occurring there. She is also concerned about the water stream and the animals that have been impacted. Autumn scheduled several clean-up dates, but unfortunately, most were postponed due to inclement weather. With the help of volunteers and forest Rangers, she was able to do roughly three trash clean-ups. Autumn gave several presentations about litter awareness to her church members, homeschooling groups, local businesses and libraries. She hung up posters in schools and passed out homemade litter awareness bookmarks to kids at her presentations. Autumn has sponsored a clean-up site by adopting a road. The sign will be erected this spring titled “Keep it Clean: Autumn’s Girl Scout Gold Award”.



## CAMILLE VAINRIB | CINCINNATI, OH

Camille graduated from Walnut Hills High School in 2018 and is now a freshman at the University of Kentucky studying Speech Pathology. Camille is involved with Youth Group and Wind Ensemble. Camille has been in Girl Scouts for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**CAREER CONNECTIONS**—After learning that while women make up 48% of the United States workforce, they only make up 24% of the STEM field, Camille wanted to help more girls get interested in STEM careers. Camille partnered with Dater High School to create an event called Career Connections, featuring a Nutritionist, Speech Therapist, Occupational Therapist, and Research Associate – all women – to talk with the girls about their jobs, the education required, and the obstacles they faced in getting where they are today. Camille also created educational materials to pass out to the students with facts about various STEM career options, and a goal worksheet. As a result of Career Connections several of the students expressed interest in job shadowing at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, and Camille was able to connect them with these opportunities.



## DHIRA VENKATRAMANI | XENIA, OH

Dhira is a senior at Beaver Creek High School. Dhira is in NHS, Tennis (Varsity), Interact Club, Network Club and YGIC. She has been in Girl Scouts for 9 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**SAFEGUARDING PERSONAL INFORMATION ONLINE**—Dhira was horrified to learn how easy it is to access anyone's personal information online. She set out to bring awareness of identity theft and steps on how to prevent it. Dhira held several workshops on how to prevent identity theft and how to opt out of data brokers, thereby removing personal information on websites. She held these workshops for Girl Scouts, senior citizens, teens and at libraries. Dhira also developed a website, a podcast and an online petition. The petition allows you to send a letter to legislators asking them to require data brokers by law to follow the same regulations as credit reporting agencies. Currently Dhira has Senator Hackett working on getting the bill passed. Her website: [SafeguardingPersonalInformation.wordpress.com](http://SafeguardingPersonalInformation.wordpress.com)



## EILEEN YANG | BEAVERCREEK, OH

Eileen is a junior at Beaver Creek High School. Eileen is on the Varsity Track Team – Pole Vault (3rd in State), Speech and Debate (Capt) and Network Club. She has been in Girl Scouts for 9 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE**—Eileen chose to create and implement a 5-day Life Skills Camp because she saw kids going off to college who didn't have the necessary skills to be independent. She focused on middle and high school boys and girls with topics ranging from sewing, finance, car care, cooking, self-defense and tool implementation. Day 1 focused on sewing and cooking. Day 2 was budgeting and finance presentations. Day 3 focused on car care such as how to use jumper cables and basic car maintenance. Day 4 highlighted balancing a checkbook, writing checks and how to obtain insurance. Day 5 focused on self-defense techniques and Lowe's came out to demonstrate the safe use of various tools. The 16 kids who attended the camp came away with a better awareness on how to be more independent.

# Achieving the Gold Award

Open to girls in high school only, the Girl Scout Gold Award is the most prestigious award in the world for girls (and the most difficult to earn), and it's available exclusively to Girl Scouts.

Gold Award Girl Scouts tackle the issues most important to them. These girls are inspiring leaders who are working on a broad range of the most challenging problems facing our world today—from human trafficking to ocean pollution to education access to expanded STEM training for girls in underserved communities.

Gold Award Girl Scouts take 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 increase their eligibility for scholarships.



## 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.

# Gold Award Shine

## Facts and Figures

- Gold Award Girl Scouts spend between one and two years on their projects.
- The average age of Gold Award Girl Scouts is 17.
- In nearly 100 years, one million girls have earned the Gold Award or its equivalent.
- Gold Award Girl Scouts who join the armed services enter at one rank higher than other recruits.
- 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 special group of women who have earned the highest honor in Girl Scouts! We know how hard you worked to plan and execute your project time to share your shine. Join the national Gold Award conversation by posting info about your project to social media using [#gsGoldAward](#) and tagging [@gswo](#).

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!



# Thank You

A special thank you to the following for their support and dedication!

## Gold Award Committee Members:

### Toledo

Sheri Benton  
Megan Gardam  
Meredith Griffin  
JoAnn Miller

### Lima

Bethany Bennett  
Jessie Elsass  
Phyllis Montrose  
Diane Timmerman  
Karen Timmerman

### Dayton

Jolene Hoggatt  
Katelyn Lambalot  
Wendy Shelton  
Jean Sims

Suzanne Valle\*  
Laura Walters

### Cincinnati

Allison Dole  
Becky Crowley  
Vickie Hunter  
Cassie Kieseey  
Lindsay Mosovsky  
Glenna Stricklett

\* Chair of the Gold Award  
Ceremony Committee

## Photographer

### Ron Valle

Pictures from today's ceremony  
will be posted on Shutterfly.  
<http://ronv.shutterfly.com>

## Thank you to the following who offer a Gold Award Scholarship to our members:





# GIRL SCOUTS

## Mission

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

## 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.

## 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,

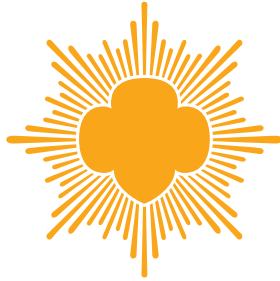
### *and to*

respect myself and others,  
respect authority,  
use resources wisely,  
make the world a better place,

### *and*

be a sister to every Girl Scout.





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

Pictures from today's ceremony  
will be posted on Shutterfly.

<http://ronv.shutterfly.com>

888.350.5090 | [gsw.org](http://gsw.org)  
[customercare@gsw.org](mailto:customercare@gsw.org)



In Partnership With:



**girl scouts**   
of western ohio