



Gold Award Girl Scouts

2023-2024 Yearbook

girl scouts 
of suffolk county

Honoring Young Women of Excellence

Dear Friends,

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest and most prestigious achievement in Girl Scouting. Gold Award Girl Scouts dedicate their time and talents to bringing meaningful and sustainable change to their communities and the world around them. They are the do-ers and dreamers who make the world a better place.

This year's class of Gold Award Girl Scouts found new and innovative ways to meet the needs of their communities. They promoted literacy and crafted educational tools that empower others, created safe spaces for wellness and reflection, raised awareness through environmental impact, and provided resources and inspiration to those who need it most. Our Gold Award Girl Scouts embraced their power to create the future they want for themselves and others, making a difference in all our lives.

On behalf of everyone at Girl Scouts of Suffolk County, we thank our Gold Award Mentors, Girl Scout volunteers, and families for their continued support in assisting our girls through this highest achievement. Their strength of courage, confidence, and character is a reflection of your dedication. We are so proud of our extraordinary Gold Award Girl Scouts and look forward to celebrating their future positive influences and triumphs.

Yours in Girl Scouting,



Tammy Severino
President & CEO



Donna Smeland
Chair of the Board

Gold Award Girl Scouts Change The World

Gold Award Girl Scouts are change-makers. They have changed the world, changed their lives, and earned the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting.

To earn the Gold Award, a Girl Scout identifies an issue in their community, drafts a plan to address a root cause, and leads a team of volunteers to implement it. When the project is complete, the Gold Award Girl Scout and their team have made a sustainable impact on the world that continues to last beyond their involvement.

It's a huge accomplishment that also impacts the Gold Award Girl Scout as a person. How they see the world—and how the world sees them—is forever changed. It's also a credential that will be with them for the rest of their life; having the Girl Scout Gold Award on a high school transcript or resumé can make a Girl Scout stand out when it comes to college admissions, scholarship applications, internships, and job interviews.

99%

of Gold Award Girl Scouts hold leadership roles in their everyday lives—such as at school, in their careers, or through volunteer work

Every Gold Award Girl Scout spends **at least 80 hours** planning and implementing a project that has a lasting impact on the community.

42

Gold Award Girl Scouts in the Class of 2024

Over 3,440

hours spent making the world a better place.



Alena Berenblatt has been active in Girl Scouts since 2005, serving as a Girl Scout Leader for her daughters' troop as well as Organizer, Fall Product Manager, Permit Manager and Coordinator for the Service Unit in Babylon Village. She attended the 2014 National Convention in Salt Lake City as a Council Delegate and the 2017 National Convention in Columbus, Ohio, as a girl chaperone. Alena feels honored to be a Gold Award Mentor and enjoys helping girls from around Suffolk County achieve the highest award in Girl Scouting



Kathy Ciano is a longtime Girl Scout, having attended a Wider Opportunity and achieved First Class as a young woman. She later volunteered as a Leader and has held Service Unit team positions such as Coordinator, Consultant, Organizer, Fall Product Manager and currently serves as a Council Trainer. She was awarded the 2021 Nancy Entenmann Award for her outstanding volunteerism and contributions to the council. She loves watching the girls' ideas come to life on the path to Gold and seeing them make a difference.



Cheryl D'Agostino was a Brownie Girl Scout, served as a Girl Scout Leader for both of her daughters and is the proud mother of two Gold Award Girl Scouts. She has volunteered in Service Unit 39 for many years as Coordinator, Registrar, Recruiter, and Campaign Manager. She attended the 2008 National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana as a Council Delegate. She loves that being a Gold Award Mentor allows her to watch girls take the journey toward becoming the best they can be.



Colette Galvez was a Girl Scout, has served as a Girl Scout Leader for over 10 years and was the Coordinator for Service Unit 46. She has served on her Service Unit Team in a variety of ways including Treasurer, Organizer, and Community Service Coordinator among others. Colette's passion for Girl Scouting is a wonderful asset as a Gold Award Mentor and to the girls who are "going for Gold."



Victoria Genovese was a Girl Scout from second through sixth grades, and a Troop Leader from first grade Brownies through Ambassador Girl Scouts with her daughter's troop. Her troop of 13 Ambassadors had 10 Girl Scouts earn their Gold Award, which proved to be an amazing experience. Because of this, Victoria became a Gold Award Mentor in 2015 so she could continue to encourage girls on their Gold Award journey.



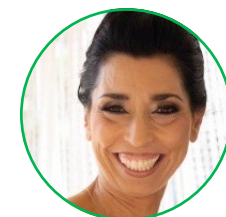
Joan Godbold has been a member of Girl Scouts since 1985, reaching Cadette level, leading her daughter's troop and volunteering as the Older Girl Consultant in the Port Jefferson area. Joan attended the National Convention as a Council delegate in 2005 and 2008, and as a girl chaperone in 2011. Joan became a Gold Award Mentor to stay involved with older girls and to encourage them to continue in Girl Scouts.



Mary Grizzle has been active in Girl Scouts since 2008. She has been a troop leader for her daughter, Team Member and Service Unit Coordinator, among other roles. When her tenure as Service Unit Coordinator ended, Mary joined as a Gold Award Mentor, and became a member of the Membership Advisory Committee. She enjoys mentoring girls as they work toward earning their Gold Award.



Karin Kouril was a troop leader for both of her daughters' troops in Northport-East Northport, and currently serves as a Service Unit Team Member. She was excited to be able to guide her daughters and many others through the completion of their Gold Award. Karin is proud to be a Gold Award Mentor and to encourage girls to grow and make a positive difference in their community.



Laverne Marri Perez was a Cookie Manager and a Troop Leader/Advisor in West Babylon for several years. Once the 11 girls in her troop graduated, she chose to become a Gold Award Mentor to inspire girls by guiding them to develop leadership skills and a lifetime of confidence. Girl Scouting is important to Laverne because she feels it is essential that girls know themselves by exploring the world.



Doryce Polanish was a Brownie Girl Scout and leader for her daughter's troop for 13 years in the Commack area until her daughter earned her Gold Award. Her favorite thing about being a Gold Award Mentor is seeing the pride and excitement each girl feels upon completing her project.



Meredith Albertelli
Little Library for Saltaire Village, Fire Island
I built a “Little Library” for Saltaire to promote literacy by providing a free and an accessible resource for books.



Kirsten Anderson
Blessings in a Backpack Renovation
I renovated, repainted, and added positive messages to the Blessings in a Backpack space at the Longwood Junior High School.



Brooke Cheskes
Preschool Sensory Path
I designed & installed a sensory path at a local preschool. I also created a website explaining its benefits and how it was made.



Mackenzie Clarke
William T. Rogers Middle School Sensory Room
I built a multi-sensory environment in the middle school to support social and emotional health.



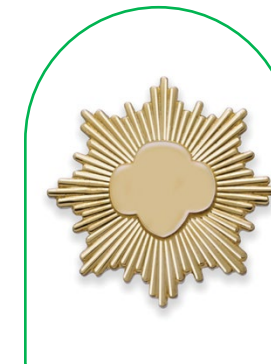
Morgan Bissell
Sayville Crisis Outreach
My project is an ongoing mental health educational program and resource access through the Sayville community, schools, and library.



Zabelle Bobelian
Math is Fun!
I created a program to get kids interested in math from a young age and inspire them to explore it as they grow older and potentially pursue a career in the field.



Jessica Curran
Chair Exercises for Seniors
To help seniors citizens stay engaged and active, I created a program of safe chair exercises with a 25-minute follow along video, informational pamphlets, and in-person workshops.



Julia Davi
Improving My Local Community Garden
I renovated and updated the garden to make it more well-known and accessible to the people in my community.



Ashley Burke
Beautifying the Sandman Family Meditation Garden
I weeded/planted flowers, cleaned benches, implemented Kindness Rocks, installed stepping stones, inspirational signs, and garden decorations.



Emma Cervone
Empower Me
I created a 2-week hands-on self defense class with full instruction to empower students. This program will continue in the phys ed curriculum and is fully-funded by the school.



Alexandra Ebanks
Righteous Rebels
I partnered with an underfunded school to implement a pilot music program by providing gently used musical instruments, sheet music, and most importantly, video instruction.



Emily Franciscovich
Memorial Garden
I created a memorial bench with plaque and planted a tree & flowers in honor of two classmates and for anyone that has passed away with ties to the Deer Park School District.



Maeve Graham

Exhibition Babylon

I worked with the Babylon Historical Society and the Mayor of Babylon to spread awareness of historical sites and to get people moving and exploring amazing parts of my hometown.



Alyssa Griesman

Music Fun Night

To raise student participation in the music program beyond elementary, I distributed an informational pamphlet, showcased a video highlighting instruments, & had interactive music stations/demos.



Avery Lazarus

Long Island Conservation: Utilizing Native Plants In Landscaping

By incorporating native plants into our landscape we can help save our bay and our resources, without using chemicals.



Alana Lewis

Science4Girls

I created a banner/canvas mural that featured four women of different ethnicities and ages whose contributions to the scientific community greatly impacted the world we live in today to inspire young girls.



Lauren Hedges

American Sign Language for Children

I created American Sign Language (ASL) boxes for the Smithtown Library containing a variety of activities to learn the basics.



Sofia Kabacinski

Long Island Native Bee Hotels

I designed, constructed, & installed 3 bee hotels at Kubecka Garden to encourage the native bee population. I used all natural materials to create a safe environment free from chemicals/insecticides.



Madison LoFrese

Clothing & Storage System for Parish Outreach

I built a multi-tiered clothing rack along with shelves designed to store perishable food items for my local Parish Outreach.



Tianna Marotta

Warrior Ranch Tack Room

I built a tack room for the Warrior Ranch Foundation.



Libby Kelly

Women Empowerment Club

I created a club at my high school focused on Women Empowerment.



Riya A. Kumar

Little Free Library at Elwood Middle School

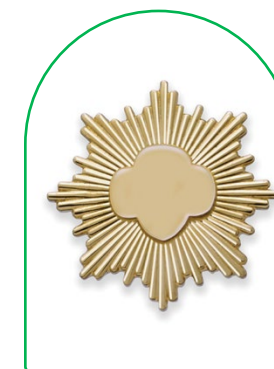
I built a Little Free Library at the middle school courtyard, filled with books about diversity & unity. I raised awareness on social & cultural differences to make an inclusive school space.



Akiko Matrisciano

Girl Scout Nursery Mural

I painted a mural at my local nursery to teach younger children about the importance of accepting other people's differences.



Chloe Montgomery

Inspiring Reading in Teens

I created an online book club via the Book Club app, to promote books and reading to other teens.



Emily Newman

Family Care Packages for Pediatric Patients

I created care packages containing necessities for children in the hospital who are going through a traumatic time in their lives and to make them more comfortable.



Michaela O'Connell

Renovation of Group Home's Backyard

I constructed a deck due to the safety hazard the concrete presented and restored the gardens within the backyard.



Ayesha Shaukat

"Breathe" Bench

I painted a bench and rocks with positive affirmations and uplifting words to send positive messages to students and allow them to see they are supported. Mental health brochures, flyers, & videos were also distributed.



Theresa Soraire

Special Menu: An EoE Friendly Cookbook

I created a cookbook for people living with EOE (Eosinophilic esophagitis) that is safe and follows the elimination diet. This was to raise awareness and understanding around this health condition.



Annamaria Pepe

Care Packages for Breast Cancer Patients

I provided the Babylon Breast Cancer coalition with care packages with knitted hats, soothing tea, lotion, hand sanitizer, socks & other items to take the stress away and make it a little easier to cope.



Angelica Rafaelides

Think Twice, Be Nice-Digital Responsibility

I created 6 videos about online safety & the consequences of being digitally unsafe. I presented to 180 6th graders at Accomsett Middle School alongside the Suffolk County District Attorney.



Joelle Spainer

Local Bee Conservation Project

I created and distributed free wildflower planting kits, planted a local, sustainable pollinator garden, and included hand painted rain barrels.



Abbey Strent

Continuous Connections at Gurwin Assisted Living

I planned and executed 7 arts & crafts related workshops at Gurwin Assisted Living for the residents to provide a fun experience, as well as an uplifting, optimistic event.



Megan Reilly

Don't Forget to Add the L.O.V.E.: Listen, Observe, Value, Engage

I created and presented a mental health training for teachers to be able to help and talk to students.



Rebecca Sandak

The Genizah Project at Temple Beth Emeth

I created a Genizah (burial repository for sacred manuscripts and ritual items that have been torn and tattered) at my temple.



Reagan Treharne

Adventures in Reading

I created an interactive book display for my elementary library. I chose titles that are high interest & paired them with Spanish language summaries & a wide variety of activities related to each book.



Brianna Vargas

Garbage Bins for Seatuck

I constructed new and secured (caged) garbage bins for Seatuck Environmental Association's picnic area.



Abigail Vermillion

Building Homes for Cats

I created and built houses for homeless cats for the Northport Cat Rescue Association.



Haley Waszkelewicz

Send Them Off Smiling

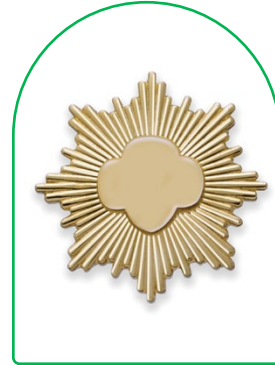
I established a biannual school supply drive to provide children in need with supplies at the beginning of each school year and throughout the year to replenish certain items.



Maegan Whalen

Memory Boards

I created 25 memory boards for a rehab center for patients and caregivers to use to post messages, photos and anything else they please.



Evelyn Whitwell

Gilbert Park Picnic Area

I created a space where people can eat and enjoy the park.



Layla Wilkes

Break Benches

I created special "break" benches for soccer players to have a safe and consistence place to take a rest during games, keep the team together and stay motivated.



Cassandra Yanke

Personal Hygiene Bags for Smithtown Children's Foundation

I created personal hygiene bags filled with everyday personal care items for kids and families that are displaced or in need.





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Girl Scouts of Suffolk County

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