

Gold Award Girl Scouts

2024-2025 Yearbook



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 are change-makers. They have the heart, vision, and ambition to leave a lasting impact on their communities, dedicating their time and talents to make the world a better place.

This year's class of Gold Award Girl Scouts explored new and innovative ways to make sustainable change in the service of others. From safe spaces that promote wellness and environmental stability, to children's books that encourage acceptance and understanding, to instructional tools that educate and empower the next generation, these 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. Your dedication reflects in their courage, confidence, and character. 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*

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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.

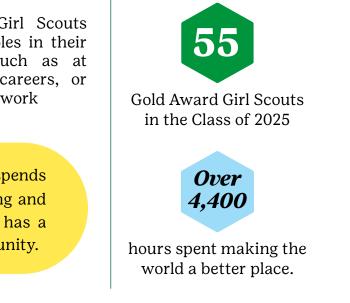
To earn the Gold Award, a Girl Scout identifies an issue in their community, drafts a plan to address a root cause, and leads a team of volunteers to implement it. When the project is complete, the Gold Award Girl Scout and their team have made a sustainable impact on the world that continues to last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



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.



Our Gold Award Mentors



Alena Berenblatt has been active in Girl Scouts since 2005, serving as a Girl Scout troop 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 National 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.



Morgan Caufield's journey with Girl Scouts began when she was a Girl Scout herself. As a volunteer, she led her troop through their entire experience, all the way to their high school graduation in 2024. After her troop's graduation, Morgan was determined to stay involved with Girl Scouts. Becoming a Gold Award mentor allowed her to continue being a positive influence within the organization. Her favorite part of the role is watching the girls' ideas evolve into impactful projects.



Cheryl D'Agostino was a Brownie Girl Scout, served as a Girl Scout troop 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 National 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 troop 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.



Holly Glick has dedicated over 13 years as a Girl Scout volunteer, holding several key roles in the Hauppauge and Central Islip School Districts and was a Girl Scout from first grade through high school. Her roles, including troop leader, service unit coordinator, campaign chair, and school coordinator, demonstrate her commitment to fostering leadership skills in young girls. Holly is excited to continue supporting Girl Scouts as a Gold Award mentor, providing guidance and support to empower future generations of women as they pursue their paths to success.



continue in Girl Scouts.



carry that achievement with them for the rest of their lives.





archery instructor for the council.

Girl Scouts of Suffolk County

Joan Godbold has been a member of Girl Scouts since 1985, reaching Cadette, leading her daughter's troop and volunteering as the older girl consultant in the Port Jefferson area. Joan attended the National Convention as a National 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

Marilyn Hall was a Girl Scout and has been an active adult volunteer as service unit coordinator twice, organizer of the Town of Huntington Silver Award Ceremony before GSSC held their own. and served on the Service Unit 13 as older girl consultant, organizer, and advisor, as well as creating and running many events. She recently received her 35 Years of Volunteer Service pin. She now has a granddaughter in Girl Scouts and attends those meetings with her. Marilyn is honored to serve as a Gold Award mentor, helping girls to reach the highest award in Girl Scouting so they can proudly

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.

Nicolle Krongel is a seasoned volunteer who led her now college-aged daughter's troop and now leads both a Daisy and Ambassador troop in Service Unit 37 in Longwood. She is a Girl Scout alumna, having participated from elementary school to college. She lives in Middle Island with her husband and her son, an Eagle Scout, and her daughter, a Gold Award Girl Scout and current troop leader. She works for a law firm and is also a part-time trainer, campsite director, and

Our Gold Award Mentors



Laverne Marri Perez was cookie manager and 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 troop 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.



Liz Roder was a Girl Scout and has been an active volunteer in Service Unit 2 since 2005, serving 13 years as a troop leader for her daughter's troop, and is a proud Mom of a Gold Award Girl Scout. She has held service unit team positions as an events planner, organizer, campaign manager, and recruiter, and she is currently the coordinator and treasurer. Liz is extremely honored to become a Gold Award mentor and to support and help Girl Scouts "Going for Gold".



Rose Vermillion was in Girl Scouts from first grade to twelfth grade. She has been a troop leader since 2006 with her oldest daughter, and continues to be a leader for her younger daughters. She was service unit coordinator for 3 years, and now holds the events coordinator position on the team. She also currently works at council as a Membership Recruitment Specialist. Rose loves having the opportunity to guide Gold Award Girl Scouts towards their goal, and help motivate them to do the best they can to improve their community.







Sophia Aurrecoechea **Dyslexia Support Kits for Elementary Students** "I created Dyslexia Support Kits to help elementary students recently diagnosed with

dyslexia by providing practical tools and resources to support their learning and build confidence in reading and writing."



Elliot Baravarian

Effective Allyship Matters "I promoted LGBTQIA+ allyship

through a resource website, community outreach, donation drives, library book expansion, and community and Service Unit presentations."

Gianna Beck North Babylon Free Little Library

"I built and installed a Free Little Library at Parliament Place School so children can access books safely without crossing a major highway to get to the local library."

Giuliana Avella

Science for Children "I taught children ages 5-13 at **BOCES Summer Program about** environment science and how our actions can impact our environment."



Emma Barbo Inspirational Hopscotch Board

"I designed and painted an inspirational hopscotch board to compliment the playground at Greenlawn Memorial Park. The board encourages mental health and well-being, promotes self-awareness, and supports physical activity."



Madison Calvanese Something Old To Something New

"I designed a hands-on art project for elementary school students. During workshops, children learned about environmental sustainability by transforming discarded bottle caps into works of art."



Sara Bally

Addition to the 9/11 Memorial

"I added names of first responders who died from 9/11-related cancers and diseases to Setauket Fire Department's memorial, honoring those affected to keep their memory alive."



Eva Barbo

Autism Acceptance Author

"I authored and self-published two children's books on autism acceptance and understanding. The books are in circulation at Harborfields Library, have been donated to elementary schools, and are available on Amazon."



Isabella Caracci

Remembering Yesterday

"I made nine original photo scrapbooks of musicians, actors and actresses, and movies from the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s for the Memory Care Unit of a Sunrise Senior Living Home."

Girl Scouts of Suffolk County



Molly Caufield

Voter Vortex: Empowering Teen Voices

"I created a civic engagement program to encourage my community to get involved in government through workshops, a website, a social media campaign, and a free coloring book and other resources."



Marissa Cilibrasi

Tie Dye Bandanas

"I made tie-dyed bandanas for epilepsy patients getting EEGs. Patients can wrap their head in a bandana when leaving the doctor's office instead of having their head covered in gauze."



Megan Condolff Calm Your Mind: Learn Crochet

"I created a "Calm Your Mind: Learn Crochet" instructional video and assembled crochet starter kits for families at the Ronald McDonald House to channel their nervous energy."



Nina Cottone **Bedroom Makeovers for**

Children with Cancer "I built shelving units, made pinboards, and led a bedroom makeover for the non-profit organization, Room 4 Love, to help them organize the rooms they will refurbish."



Olivia Davis 9/11 Responders **Remembered Park Project**

"I enhanced the 9/11 Responders Remembered Park, making it more accessible by providing stone benches and chairs for ceremonies and events. Members of the community donated new equipment to the park as well."

Alessandra De Stefano

Mini Amphitheater -"BE YOURSELF"

"I constructed a miniamphitheater for primary school students, giving them opportunities to express themselves in ways that aim to lessen anxiety by exposing them to public speaking and confidence."

Mya DeClue

CTeen Lounge

"I created a CTeen lounge in my local synagogue, providing Jewish teens a dedicated space for learning, socializing, and relaxation, fostering a safe, inclusive environment within their community."

Anna DiBiase

Accompsett Elementary's Storytime Library

"I created a virtual library containing over 40 children's books read by me and my classmates to serve as an educational resource for children to use during screen time."



Ava D'Angelo

Ellie Crowley

Compassion Rock Garden

garden to raise mental health

workshop at the food pantry

for the less fortunate, and

accessible information for

"I created a wellness rock

awareness, organized a

developed multilingual

pamphlets to ensure

a diverse audience."

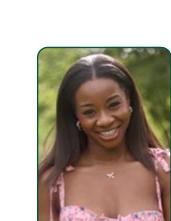
The Friendship Sneakers

"I wrote a digital children's book about physical and mental health called *The Friendship Sneakers*. I presented the book to kindergartners, ran a minimarathon with them, and taught yoga classes."



Emma Dean-Stahl **Bees Rising** Perennial Garden

"I planted a perennial garden to support the bee population and educated my community about threats facing pollinators that are vital to our ecosystems."



Alexis Ebanks STRONG

"I authored STRONG (Strength, Teamwork, Resilience, Optimism, Nutrition, and Growth), a published children's book and 10-day educational curriculum created to raise awareness of mental and holistic wellness in young students."

Girl Scouts of Suffolk County



Sophie Epstein **AVM Awareness Project**

"I raised awareness about Brain AVMs through educational campaigns, social media, personal stories, community connections, and events like "Pink for Paige" Day, reaching diverse groups globally and locally."



Charlotte Farrugia

Herb Garden

"I partnered with a church and built a garden so families in need have fresh herbs for healthier meals, and also made a booklet with tips for using herbs."



Jasmine Farrugia Fitness for Children

"I worked with a track club and taught young children the importance of physical fitness by creating workouts and teaching them exercises, movement routines, and warm-up activities."



Gold Award Girl Scouts of 2024-2025



Jailyn Fasano Icons and Saviors

"I worked with the Warrior Ranch Foundation to supply ground poles and storage for the poles so that both the horses and Veterans can heal and work together."

Lillian Fleischer

The Rainbow Project

"I wrote a play to raise

and created educational

material and discussion

awareness for LGBTQ+ youth

questions to accompany it."



Grace Goetz Beautification of a **Community Building**

"I beautified a community building by creating flower beds, painting columns, and constructing flower boxes to foster community pride, encourage gatherings, and improve the visual appeal."

Kristin Krause Paddle Board Racks

"I built two racks to store beach/ boating equipment in Breezy Point, Queens, where I have spent all my summers. They accommodate paddle boards, kayaks, and canoes. They are elevated enough from the tide but low enough not to affect the view from the houses."



Lauren Limongelli

Activity Kits for Kids

"I created fun and creative activity kits for kids to help with their development and be less active on digital screens. I donated them to my school so that teachers and babysitters could have access to them and borrow them."

Olivia LoBue

Sensory Friendly Kits for **First Responders**

"I created sensory kits and training manuals to support EMTs and firefighters when assisting people with autism and sensory processing issues. The kits included noisereducing headphones, fidget toys, and more."



Julia Furer

Scent of Awareness

"I sold candles with an informational video about type 1 diabetes. All proceeds went to Camp Nejeda, a camp specialized for children with type 1 diabetes."



Kayden Laucella

Lee Koppelman Preserve

"I raised awareness and educated my community on the importance of the preserve. I built an informative kiosk and created a brochure, coloring book, and trail map. I planted 26 native plants to help with reforestation."



Ruth Joy Mahnken

School Supplies For All

"I built two wooden cabinets for the Fallsburg School District to hold school supplies, and I collected 375 lbs of supplies to fill them. I also created a pamphlet in collaboration with a community organization for families."

Girl Scouts of Suffolk County



Callie McLean **Condos for Canines**

"I constructed five new dog houses to help my local animal shelter provide a safe space for the dogs to sleep and find comfort while they wait for their forever homes."



Jenna Mehlinger

Memory Loss Activity **Fidget Board**

"I created fun and engaging activities for people suffering from conditions such as Alzheimer's or dementia to improve & preserve memory while trying to keep their brains entertained and healthy."



Gabrielle Mitchell Helping Hands: Gifts from the Heart for Survivors of **Domestic Violence**

"To help spread awareness about domestic violence. the community and I made personalized gifts for survivors. I created a video on understanding domestic violence and donated everything to local shelters."



Isabella Muccio

Seeds for Sensory Play "I built a sensory garden for New Interdisciplinary Special Education Preschool, I created sensory bag donations, a rock garden, flower boxes, outdoor play equipment, and a wood bridge, and filmed an informative YouTube video."



Paige Rizzo

Community Mural

"I created a beautiful community mural at the religious education area at my local church and involved the staff, counselors, and campers during Bible Camp to add their handprints."

Lily Scarth Helping Out The Horse World

"I repainted barns at Old Field Farm and used interviews and research to spread awareness to both equestrians and non-equestrians about how the equine industry affects the economy."

Brianna Naumann

The Wizards & Warriors Project "I designed a tabletop role-

playing game (TTRPG) gamebook to help improve the mental wellness and social skills of the youth in our community after the impact COVID-19 had on emotional development."



Elizabeth Ryan Pen 2 Paper

"I created a curriculum to help middle schoolers prepare for high school academics. I covered essay writing, academic formats, and the research process. I compiled the lessons into binders for teachers and YouTube videos."



Nicole Schrock **Cold Spring Harbor Career Fair**

"I organized and implemented a career fair to allow students to explore different paths they may not have known about before this event."



Danika Riccio

Breaking the Silence on **Teen Mental Health**

"I worked with the Postpartum Resource Center of New York and a local art therapist and muralist to teach teens how to care for their mental health."



Regan Sayers Butterfly Garden

"I created a butterfly garden at a local elementary school for students with special needs to release the butterflies they grew after the butterflies have completed their life cycle."



Adelina Scott

Milkweed for Monarchs

"I addressed the decline of the endangered Monarch Butterfly population and the native plant, Milkweed, that they require for survival. I provided information and plants to the Butterfly Garden at Quogue Wildlife Refuge."

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Caroline Severino Mental Health Matters

"I created a wellness room at a domestic violence shelter for women and children alongside a mental health program that I integrated into my school's curriculum."



Kinley Simmons Plants To Weed Out PTSD

"I established a garden at the Northport VA PTSD unit, collaborating with physical therapists to support horticultural therapy, educate youth about PTSD, and integrate fresh produce into residents' meals."



Samantha Simson Sustainable Fruit and

Vegetable Garden

"I made a sustainable vegetation garden to provide fresh produce to needy families through their food pantry. I created garden beds and installed an irrigation system."

Gold Award Girl Scouts of 2024-2025



Victoria Starkey

Logging onto Mental Health "I created a website promoting mental health awareness and taught lessons to children at Ivy League School and the Smithtown Library."



Adria Vargas

A Garden & Games for Good Samaritan Nursing Home

"I created a native perennial garden, a wooden racehorse game, and a wheelchair volleyball game for the Good Samaritan Nursing Home residents to enjoy."





Emma Travaglia

Reduce Childhood Obesity with Education

"To reduce rising cardiovascular issues in children, I educated over 1,000 children ages 5 to 12 about the link between obesity, nutrition, and fitness. I provided exercises to increase their cardiovascular health."



Olivia Vigliotti

Community Arts Project "I built an outdoor stage to

provide a non-judgmental environment for people of different abilities to come together as a community and explore various art-related programs."



Kristen Tveter

High School Dance Club

"I created the club focused on getting to know my peers through dance, fostering a sense of belonging within the school community, and how dance or movement helps people decompress."



Amanda Woods **Every Drop Counts**

"I organized and hosted an impactful blood drive that touched over 200 lives across New York and educated my community and sister Girl Scouts on the importance of donating blood."

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Jennifer Friedman 2nd Vice Chair

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