

Girl Scout Volunteer Appreciation Awards Guidebook





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Questions?

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Introduction

Girl Scouts of Suffolk County is fortunate to have more than 2,500 Adult Volunteers. These volunteers give themselves and their time to the Girl Scout Movement, and, in turn, reap the reward of helping girls become the strong, confident leaders of tomorrow. Their dedication emphasizes the qualities that Girl Scouts value. Volunteer Appreciation Awards in Girl Scouting acknowledges those volunteers who provide service above and beyond what is expected.

The criteria for these awards are established either by GSUSA or GSSC and focus on leadership, implementation of goals, acceptance of responsibility, and consistent follow-through.

This guidebook will provide information on award criteria, nomination and review process.

General Information

In addition to specific award criteria, nominated candidates must meet the following eligibility requirements to receive recognition:

- Registered Girl Scout
- Active member of Girl Scouts of Suffolk County
- Volunteer in good standing as defined by Council
- Nomination forms submitted by the deadline

Volunteer Appreciation & Awards Dinner

Council recognizes adult volunteers for outstanding service and commitment to the Girl Scout movement in Suffolk County at our annual dinner held in the spring. Award recipients will be notified of their award and information about the event will appear on our website.

Service Unit Level Recognition

Service Unit level awards are purchased through council and distributed at local volunteer appreciation events hosted by the Service Unit Team.

Nomination Process

Any active Girl Scout member, Girl Scout parent or caregiver, or alumna may nominate a volunteer for Volunteer Appreciation Awards. Each award has specific criteria for nominee eligibility and nominations must be received by deadline for consideration.

The criteria for these awards are established either by GSUSA or GSSC and focus on leadership, implementation of goals, acceptance of responsibility, and consistent follow-through. Recipients will not receive the same award twice at the GSUSA or GSSC Council Award levels. Please note volunteers may not self-nominate for the awards.

Writing Award Nominations

The focus of volunteer appreciation awards is impact on girls and the Girl Scout movement. The Volunteer Appreciation & Awards Committee, comprised of volunteers from throughout the Council, is committed to evaluating award submissions for the most prestigious awards a council may award to volunteers. The committee relies on the completeness and accuracy of the nominations. Please let the time you take to fill out the nomination or endorsement



Be thoughtful as you let us know the outstanding characteristics of the person you are nominating.

This chart shows how a statement, with a little thought, can become a strong nomination statement for the committee's review:

Initial Statement	Consider	Strong Nomination Statement
"She has been a leader for a long time."	How many years? Through which levels?	"For 11 years, she has led a large troop from Daisies, persevering through the difficult middle school years, to their current level of Seniors."
"She is a great leader."	What kind of leadership qualities does she bring? What makes her stand out?	"She continually brings leadership opportunities to the girls. She encourages a girl-led approach by allowing girls to vote on and implement their activities as well as makes sure they are knowledgeable about the mentoring programs such as LiA and CIT awards."
"She always goes above and beyond."	Be specific! Tell a story about the great benefits those around her receive due to her efforts.	"Her troop voted to start the aMuse Journey. Because she has never considered herself a "creative soul" when it came to artistic endeavors, she recruited troop parents, artists, and actors as resources for her girls to draw from. As a result, the girls have had a great time meeting community experts and discovering parent talent in their own troop! They now have several opportunities for Take Action projects because of these connections."
"He's a dad who helps whenever needed."	Be specific! Tell a story about the support given to the girls, and how the girls benefited.	"This volunteer came to the rescue during a troop camp-out when the troops discovered a nest of baby raccoons in camp! He kept both the girls and leaders calm as he assisted in alerting the site director, all the while educating the girls about wild animals and safety. The girls felt safe, and in control, thanks to good guidance!"




GSUSA National Recognition Awards

Award recipients are selected by designated Girl Scouts of Suffolk County leadership that includes Board of Director members and the Volunteer Appreciation Awards Committee. Recipients will receive an email letting them know they have been selected for an award.






Award	Honors	Criteria	Nomination/Approval Process
Appreciation Pin 	Any Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered volunteer in good standing. Actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behavior while supporting the delivery of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and making a measurable impact in at least one Service Unit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.
Volunteer of Excellence Award 	Any Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered volunteer in good standing. Outstanding service in delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience in partnership with girls, OR outstanding service in support of the council's mission delivery to adult members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.
Honor Pin 	Any Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered volunteer in good standing. Demonstrated outstanding service to two or more Service Units. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.
Thanks Badge 	Any Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered volunteer in good standing. Demonstrates ongoing commitment, leadership and service which has an exceptional, measurable impact on the mission-delivery goals of the entire council or the entire Girl Scout Movement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.
Thanks Badge II 	Any Volunteer who has received the Thanks Badge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered volunteer in good standing. Previous Thanks Badge recipient who has continued to provide exemplary service in a leadership role, resulting in a measurable impact that benefits the entire council or the entire Girl Scout Movement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.

Council Level Awards

Award recipients are selected by designated Girl Scouts of Suffolk County leadership that includes Board of Director members and the Volunteer Appreciation Awards Committee. Recipients will receive an email letting them know they have been selected for an award.

Award	Honors	Criteria	Nomination/Approval Process
GSSC Council Award 	Any Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered volunteer in good standing. Completed 5+ years of service Demonstrated outstanding service that has left a lasting impact on the council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.
Beacon Award 	Any Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered volunteer in good standing. Completed 10+ years of service Cultivated new and lasting relationship(s) with an individual, organization, or school within the community to further enhance the Girl Scout Leadership Experience for a troop or Service Unit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.
The Dorothy L. Klug Golden Lantern Award 	Any Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered volunteer in good standing. Completed 15+ years of service Recognizes a volunteer whose inner light of leadership and enthusiasm for Girl Scouts has ignited a flame of excellence that is passed to all members of the council, as well as the community outside of Girl Scouts. This volunteer serves as a role model for compassion and service within a troop or service unit, and has built girls' courage, confidence, and character with specific interest in outdoor leadership experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.

Council Level Awards *(Cont'd)*

Award	Honors	Criteria	Nomination/Approval Process
<p>The Golden Trailblazer Award</p> 	<p>A Girl Scout Alumna from our Council who has received her Girl Scout Gold Award.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any Girl Scout Alumna from our Council between the ages of 21-30 and has received the Girl Scout Gold Award while an active member. Recognizes an alumna who continues to make an impact in the world with her vision and leadership. This alumna continues to support the Girl Scout movement through her community service, career, or volunteerism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.
<p>Leader Thank You Award</p> 	<p>Any Troop Leader <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered troop leader in good standing. Troop Leader with 10 or more consecutive years of service to the same troop or program level that will not be returning for the next Girl Scout year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.
<p>President's Circle Award</p> 	<p>Any Service Unit Team Member <i>Awarded 1 per Service Unit annually</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered Service Unit Team member in good standing. Demonstrates outstanding service to one Service Unit promoting Girl Scouts in the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.
<p>The Carol Keil Rising Star Award</p> 	<p>Any Volunteer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered volunteer in good standing. Completed a maximum of 1-3 years of service. Recognizes a volunteer during the first 3 years of service for outstanding service to a troop, service unit and community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.
<p>Service Unit Star Award</p> 	<p>Any Service Unit Team Member <i>Awarded 1 per Service Unit annually</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered Service Unit Team member in good standing. Has served a minimum of two years in one of the following roles: Coordinator, Data Analyst, Treasurer, Product Sales Manager, Recruiter, or Consultant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.

Years of Service






Service Unit members nominate volunteers and leaders for specific years of service awards. Nominees must have completed the indicated year of service at the time of nomination.

Award	Honors	Criteria	Nomination/Approval Process
10 Years of Service Award	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered volunteer in good standing. Volunteer who has served for a minimum of 10 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.
15 Years of Service Award	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered volunteer in good standing. Volunteer who has served for a minimum of 15 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.
20 Years of Service Award	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered volunteer in good standing. Volunteer who has served for a minimum of 20 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.
25 Years of Service Award	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered volunteer in good standing. Volunteer who has served for a minimum of 25 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.
30 Years of Service Award	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered volunteer in good standing. Volunteer who has served for a minimum of 30 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.








Service Unit Level Awards

Service Unit Team members nominate volunteers and leaders for Service Unit level awards. There are specific criteria for each award and recipients are considered and selected by Service Unit committee members. Some awards can be received by multiple volunteers.

Award	Honors	Criteria	Nomination/Approval Process
5 Years of Service Award 	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered volunteer in good standing. Volunteer who has served for a minimum of 5 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Service Unit Team.
Cookie Champion Award 	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered volunteer in good standing. Has served as Girl Scout Cookie Campaign Manager for 3 consecutive years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Service Unit Team.
First Year Leader Excellence Award 	Any First Year Troop Leader <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered troop leader in good standing who began their first year of service on October 1st of the current Girl Scout year. First-Year Troop Leader who has demonstrated excellence in the role. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Service Unit Team.
Keep The Promise, Live The Law Award 	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered volunteer in good standing. Troop volunteer, including a leader, who completes a 4th year of service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Service Unit Team.
Mags & Munchies Maven Award 	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered volunteer in good standing. Has served as Fall Product Sales Manager for 3 consecutive years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Service Unit Team.

Service Unit Level Awards *(Cont'd)*

Award	Honors	Criteria	Nomination/Approval Process
Outdoor Enthusiast Award 	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered volunteer in good standing. Has shared an outdoor experience with a troop or Service Unit within the last 2 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Service Unit Team.
Outstanding Leader Award 	Any Troop Leader <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered troop leader in good standing. Has performed service beyond the role expectations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Service Unit Team.
Outstanding Volunteer Award 	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered troop volunteer in good standing. Served in a non-leader role that has performed service beyond role expectations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Service Unit Team.
NEW Soaring to Success Award 	Any Troop Leader <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered troop leader in good standing. Has led a specific troop from Daisy to Ambassador and fostered leadership and mentoring opportunities during the Cadette to Ambassador program levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Service Unit Team.
Spirit of Scouting Award 	Any Troop Leader <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any registered troop leader in good standing. Manage troops with the following troop size: Daisy: 20+ Brownie: 25+ Junior: 21+ Cadette: 16+ Senior: 15+ Ambassador: 15+ Multi-level: 10+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominator completes online nomination form. Recipient selected by Service Unit Team.

Where to Place Volunteer Insignia, Patches, and Pins



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