

# 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 (April). Award recipients will be notified of their award and information about the event will appear on our website in early winter.

## Service Unit Level Recognition

Service Units are encouraged to host local events to honor their volunteers in addition to attending the council dinner. Service Units may want to incorporate Girl Scout traditions and ceremonies as part of their celebration.

## 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.

## Award Pins

Award pins will be available for Service Unit Teams to pick up at the annual dinner. This will include pins of those not attending the event for team members to distribute at a later date.

# Writing Award Nominations






The focus of adult recognition awards is impact on girls and the Girl Scout movement. The Adult Recognition Committee, comprised of volunteers from throughout the Council, is serious about evaluating potential adult volunteers for the most prestigious awards a council may award to adult members. 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 Adult Recognition 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 benefitted.	"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
	Any Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered volunteer in good standing</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online nomination form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.</li> </ul>
	Any Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered volunteer in good standing</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online nomination form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.</li> </ul>
	Any Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered volunteer in good standing</li> <li>Demonstrated outstanding service to two or more Service Units.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online nomination form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.</li> </ul>
	Any Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered volunteer in good standing</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online nomination form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.</li> </ul>
	Any Volunteer who has received the Thanks Badge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered volunteer in good standing</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online nomination form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.</li> </ul>

# 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
	Any Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered volunteer in good standing</li> <li>Completed 5+ years of service</li> <li>Demonstrated outstanding service that has left a lasting impact on the council.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online nomination form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.</li> </ul>
	Any Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered volunteer in good standing</li> <li>Completed 10+ years of service</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online nomination form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.</li> </ul>
	Any Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered volunteer in good standing</li> <li>Completed 15+ years of service</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online nomination form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.</li> </ul>

# Council Level Awards *(Cont'd)*






Award	Honors	Criteria	Nomination/Approval Process
The Golden Trailblazer Award 	A Girl Scout Alumna from our Council who has received her Girl Scout Gold Award.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online nomination form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.</li> </ul>

# 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
Cookie Champion Award 	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered volunteer in good standing.</li> <li>Has served as Girl Scout Cookie Campaign Manager for 3 consecutive years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online application form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Service Unit Team</li> </ul>
First Year Leader Excellence Award 	Any First Year Troop Leader <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered first year troop leader in good standing.</li> <li>First-Year Troop Leader who has demonstrated excellence in the role.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual or group completes online nomination form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Service Unit Team</li> </ul>
Keep The Promise, Live The Law Award 	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered volunteer in good standing.</li> <li>Troop volunteer, including a leader, who completes a 4th year of service.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online application form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Service Unit Team</li> </ul>
Leader Thank You Award 	Any Troop Leader <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered troop leader in good standing.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online application form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Service Unit Team</li> </ul>
Mags & Munchies Maven Award 	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered volunteer in good standing.</li> <li>Has served as Fall Product Sales Manager for 3 consecutive years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online application form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Service Unit Team</li> </ul>

# 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"> <li>Any registered volunteer in good standing.</li> <li>Has shared an outdoor experience with a troop or Service Unit within the last 2 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online application form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Service Unit Team</li> </ul>
 Outstanding Leader Award	Any Troop Leader <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered troop leader in good standing.</li> <li>Has performed service beyond the role expectations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual or group completes online nomination form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Service Unit Team</li> </ul>
 Outstanding Volunteer Award	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered troop volunteer in good standing.</li> <li>Served in a non-leader role that has performed service beyond role expectations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online application form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Service Unit Team</li> </ul>
 President's Circle Award	Any Service Unit Team Member <i>Awarded 1 per Service Unit annually</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered Service Unit Team member in good standing</li> <li>Demonstrates outstanding service to one Service Unit promoting Girl Scouts in the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online application form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Service Unit Team</li> </ul>
 Service Unit Star Award	Any Service Unit Team Member <i>Awarded 1 per Service Unit annually</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered Service Unit Team member in good standing</li> <li>Has served a minimum of two years in one of the following roles: Coordinator, Data Analyst, Treasurer, Product Sales Manager, Recruiter, or Consultant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online application form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Service Unit Team</li> </ul>
 Spirit of Scouting Award	Any Troop Leader <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered troop leader in good standing</li> <li>Manage troops with the following troop size: Daisy: 20+   Brownie: 25+   Junior: 21+   Cadette: 16+   Senior: 15+   Ambassador: 15+   Multi-level: 10+</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online application form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Service Unit Team</li> </ul>

# 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
5 Years of Service Award	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered volunteer in good standing</li> <li>Volunteer who has served for a minimum of 5 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online application form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Service Unit Team</li> </ul>
10 Years of Service Award	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered volunteer in good standing</li> <li>Volunteer who has served for a minimum of 10 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online application form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.</li> </ul>
15 Years of Service Award	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered volunteer in good standing</li> <li>Volunteer who has served for a minimum of 15 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online application form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.</li> </ul>
20 Years of Service Award	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered volunteer in good standing</li> <li>Volunteer who has served for a minimum of 20 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online application form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.</li> </ul>
25 Years of Service Award	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered volunteer in good standing</li> <li>Volunteer who has served for a minimum of 25 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online application form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.</li> </ul>
30 Years of Service Award	Any Volunteer <i>Can be awarded to multiple individuals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any registered volunteer in good standing</li> <li>Volunteer who has served for a minimum of 30 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual completes online application form.</li> <li>Recipient selected by Council Leadership including GSSC Board of Directors and Awards Committee.</li> </ul>

# Where to Place Volunteer Insignia, Patches, and Pins



**Girl Scouts of Suffolk County**  
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