The 2019-2020 Girl Scout Gold Awards
The Gold Award is the highest award a girl can earn in Girl Scouting. An award with national standards, it acknowledges an individual’s accomplishments, leadership, commitment, creativity, and personal effort in trying to make the world a better place. Each Gold Award project solves a community issue and improves lives while girls build their personal leadership skills and inspire others to community action.

A Gold Award Girl Scout’s accomplishments reflect leadership and citizenship skills that set her apart as a community leader. The award is a major accomplishment in a girl’s life and an extension and compilation of all that she has learned through her Girl Scout experience.

The Girl Scout Gold Award recognizes that for girls to become leaders they need to become knowledgeable, involved, and proactive. They need to lead the way.

Discover—Girls understand themselves and their values and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world;

Connect—Girls care about, inspire, and team with others locally and globally;

Take Action—Girls act to make the world a better place.

Above all else, the achievement of the Gold Award makes a girl understand what a difference one person can make, what one girl in a leadership role can do, and how one person’s vision can inspire positive change.

Did you know?
- Though it has changed names, since 1916, the Girl Scout Gold Award, the organization’s highest award, has represented excellence and leadership for girls everywhere!
- The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest leadership award a Girl Scout can earn. Less than six percent of all Girl Scouts earn the Girl Scout Gold Award.
- A Girl Scout who has earned her Gold Award immediately rises one rank in any of the U.S. military branches.
- A growing number of colleges and universities across the country recognize the achievement of the Gold Award through college admission and scholarships.

Congratulations to this year’s Gold Award Girl Scouts!

Isabella Blanco
Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead!
Created an afterschool program with the City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department to boost community educational enrichment in STEM.

“Using my assertiveness to advocate for this program and the mobile STEAM trailer was one of the most valuable lessons I took from this experience. I realized that it is necessary to speak up on behalf of myself and others in order to accomplish my goals. I want other young people to see that no action was too small when trying to impact our Santa Maria community.”

Camilie Busco
Answering the Animal’s Calls
Created a binder of ways teens can help at animal shelters, as well as a donation drive and creation of DIY cat toys for shelter cats.

“I learned that any project that I pursue will be a lot of work, but that the impact it will have is all worth it. No matter how difficult it may seem to change a space, when you break it down into manageable parts you can completely transform environments.”

Taylor Burke
Renovating a Craft’s Cabin
Renovated the interior of the craft cabin at Camp Gilmore to inspire creativity and to make it a more usable space for creating art projects for the inner city youth who attend camp there every summer.

“Completing this project helped me see that when I set my mind on something, I will do everything to make it happen and be the best it can possibly be. I put my heart and soul into it. I learned that I don’t stop trying even through setbacks, and that I can always look to my friends and family for support.”

Emily Calkins
Renewing the Terraces and Trails of Cinque Terre
Rebuilt unstable terraces in Italy, keeping a UNESCO World Heritage site from falling into the ocean.

“I gained confidence to travel alone as a woman, and because of that, I will venture to go on more international adventures. I also learned a lot about perseverance and will take away the strength to push through and complete a project, even when it presents me with difficulties.”

Carissa Chapa
Lending a Helping Paw
Educated community of guide dog etiquette and ways to support puppy raiser volunteers.

“This project pushed me out of my comfort zone, taught me to be more patient, and more importantly showed me it is okay to ask for help. Through all of this I learned the importance of time management, how to manage a budget, and how to be flexible and quickly adapt to different situations.”

Mollie Cobb
Earth Day! Every Day!
Created a recycling program for her school lunchroom and a compost bin to be used towards the school garden.

“The Girl Scout Law and Promise were never just words said at Girl Scout meeting or event...but by doing this project, I realized that I was living them out. #GirlScoutForever!”
Adriana Ferraro
Bonding Through Books

Established a NICU library at St. John’s Regional Medical Center for mothers to read to their children.

“This project reaffirmed my love for music and that I am always a Girl Scout, go-getter, innovator, risk-taker, and leader!”

Emily Greene
Food for Thought Mural

Addressed the issue of food waste and unhealthy food choices at school by painting a mural and handing out brochures.

“I learned that even though I am quiet, I can engage people to listen. I learned to budget more time the larger the project is and the importance of commitment. In the end, the mural got a lot of attention and made a lot of people happy.”

Denae Driskill
Together We Cheer

Ran a cheer camp for middle school and high school students with disabilities.

“From this project, I developed my communication skills, organization skills, creative skills, patience, and dependability. The most successful aspect was seeing the excitement and joy that was brought to all of the camper’s faces as they were cheering, and how they were so eager to learn more everyday.”

Sarah Donahue
Beds for Furry Friends

Used recycled materials from community members to make pet beds for the Santa Ynez Humane Society.

“I learned about the process of trial and error, and a lot about patience and preparedness. I loved being able to recycle items no longer needed, and transforming them into something new to be given to our furry friends.”

Lindsey Jackson
Project Pillow

Created a club at school to learn about sewing and supported Casa Pacifica (adolescent and family services) by creating 50 pillowcases.

“This project has taught me a lot about myself and my community, allowing me to grow as a leader and an individual. Talking to the foster youth really put into perspective how often we take the smallest things for granted, and the importance of being grateful for what you have even if it is not a lot.”

Alexandra Jones
Leading for Change

Developed a leadership program for middle school students, teaching teamwork, confidence, and public speaking skills.

“I learned the importance that communication has on completing tasks and projects. It is impossible to do anything entirely by yourself, so communication is the key to a successful project.”

Jessica Knight
Good Topics

Built a play structure for goats at a farm healing sanctuary which helps, it is just about the help.

“I learned that if I put my heart and hard work into something, all that matters is what I think of the outcome. The thought of failure scared me, but I realized that if the event helped even one person, then all of my work was successful. It’s not about how many it helps, it is just about the help.”

Sarah Clench
Activating the Brain Through Music

Provided music therapy to nursing home patients Lexington Assisted Living and created pamphlets for Activities Director.

“I learned that even though I am quiet, I can engage people to listen. I learned to budget more time the larger the project is and the importance of commitment. In the end, the mural got a lot of attention and made a lot of people happy.”

Riley Dart
Leadership Competencies for High School Students

Teach high school students the basic skills needed in order to successfully lead a group.

“I learned that even though I am quiet, I can engage people to listen. I learned to budget more time the larger the project is and the importance of commitment. In the end, the mural got a lot of attention and made a lot of people happy.”

Kaylee Jacques
Video for a Cause

Created and revamped media assets for Many Mansions, a nonprofit that provides affordable housing to low-income residents of Ventura County.

“Through my project, I gained deeper knowledge on the issue of homelessness and how affordable housing is a huge piece of the solution. I believe the most successful aspect was bringing awareness to my community and beyond about Many Mansions and the work they do.”

Kylah Kennedy
The Sunlight Project: Shedding Light on Mental Health

Planned a workshop with a panel of speakers to raise awareness and provide resources about mental health in teens.

“I learned that if I put my heart and hard work into something, all that matters is what I think of the outcome. The thought of failure scared me, but I realized that if the event helped even one person, then all of my work was successful. It’s not about how many it helps, it is just about the help.”

2019-2020 GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUTS
Megan Larson
Outdoor Exercise for Veterans

Refurbished a bocce ball court at Veterans Home of California and held a tournament to raise awareness of the importance of exercise among veterans.

“I discovered the importance of planning ahead, budgeting, having everything in writing, and giving your team of volunteers a lot of notice. Also, communicating with adults in the community is not as scary as it seems! It was really nice seeing veterans be able to participate in the tournament.”

Vanessa Luna
Books 4 All

Built a free mini library and held book club meetings to help children with reading comprehension.

“A project’s success comes in the form of knowing you helped make the world a better place. I learned how to remain steadfast during many different situations. Whether it was purchasing lumber, asking for book donations, or sharing the news about the library, I used my public speaking skills and developed new ones as well.”

Isabel Pitstick
Mountain Meadows Sensory Room

Remodeled and improved a sensory room for special education department at Mountain Meadows Elementary.

“From this project I have gained a sense of self and experienced the rewarding feeling of giving back to my community. I have learned that with hard work any task is conquerable with the right mindset and effort.”

Madison Mok
Busy Blankets for Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness

Designed, created, and distributed 30 lap blankets to patients at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association in Ventura.

“I learned that it is so easy to start a project that will help your community. I hope that these simple sensory pads will help those affected by Alzheimer’s Disease by keeping their minds active even if it’s just for a small moment in a day.”

Natalie McCaffrey
Smart F.A.R.M.

Created a sustainable agriculture program at her school and developed “smart farm” weather stations to combine agriculture and computer science.

“By collaborating with teachers, delivering education, and involving my community, I have been greatly inspired by my Gold Award project. I found direction for my interest in STEM, developed a passion for agriculture, built important relationships, and found a path for my future career. Girl Scouts has guided me on the greatest journey of my life and has provided a launching pad for my rocket to take off.”

Kaylee Manzitto
Dance and Music Workshop

Created a workshop at a community summer camp for special needs children to learn how to create and inspire through instruments and movement.

“Even if things don’t go as planned, the most important thing is to adapt and try something different that is effective. I learned that a successful leader knows who they are working with and is always happy to adapt.”

Prepared a health and fitness workshop for kids with special needs at a day camp.

“I found that most of the time, I can be patient. Because of this, I have a better appreciation of the job that my teachers do. I found that it is important to remember that I do not have to do everything myself.”

Many Gold Award Projects include creating unique curriculum that can be used by educators to make a lasting impact.
Encouraged socializing and play without technology among children by building a mud kitchen for a preschool.

“I have given a younger generation a tool that many kids don’t have, which is a way to learn how to talk and socialize in a fun, encouraging environment. I developed a new love for woodworking and working with children, and even got to connect on a more personal level with my neighbor as his apprentice.”

Lauren Sinopoli
Sports Workshop for Children with Special Needs

Created a feral cat structure at an animal shelter, educated on TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release), and encouraged community to participate.

“At first it found it incredibly intimidating asking others for help. Asking for donations of money and time from my community pushed me beyond my comfort zone, but I found that people were a lot more welcoming and supportive than I had initially thought. I gained an extraordinary amount of confidence through this experience.”

Jenna Stuck
Feral Cat Structure

Began an after-school dance program for children to raise cultural awareness and teach two styles of traditional Indian dance.

“The most important thing I learned during my project is that I can push myself out of my comfort zone and accomplish what I have set in my mind. This really helped me develop confidence in myself and my abilities.”

Neha Thiyagarajan
Dance for Diversity

Created an awareness program about traumatic brain injuries to share with school staff and Kaiser Permanente pediatric doctors.

“I have gained the confidence to take on challenges that initially seemed difficult to overcome, which I know will lead me to take on bigger projects in the future where I can continue to learn to be a better leader.”

Alina Tong
Learn, Prevent, Care: Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness

Created a system to organize school band uniforms and a checkout routine to maintain it.

“The support I received from the band community and the people around me really helped me with my project and allowed me to do such a great job with it. This experience taught me to be confident and to trust in myself.”

Jaymie Throop
Paso Robles High School Uniform Management

Created a curriculum for second-grade students to address the decline in honeybee population and educate on bee conservation tactics.

“My increased understanding of education segwayed into the development of my communication skills as a leader. I found that I really enjoy teaching, and had a lot of fun presenting on bees and answering the children’s questions. It was priceless to me to see their intrigue in honeybees, knowing that my lesson brought that amazement to them.”

Sarah Wang
Bee Friendly
Since 1916, approximately one million Girl Scouts have been making a meaningful, sustainable change in their communities and around the world by earning the Girl Scout Gold Award. This is the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn, and acknowledges the power behind each recipient’s dedication to not only empowering and bettering herself, but also making the world a better place for others. These young women are courageous leaders and visionary changemakers.

Girl Scouts choose an issue, investigate the issue, create a plan, gather a team, take action in their communities, and educate and inspire others to make the world a better place.

The Gold Award Committee is composed of caring and dedicated volunteers. Each committee member mentors girls as they embark on their journey toward the Girl Scout Gold Award, offering advice, support, and guidance along the way. These committee members’ efforts ensure the success of our GSCALcentralcoast Gold Award Girl Scouts, and their dedication is what makes our Gold Award program possible. Thank you for an excellent year.
Girl Scout Mission
Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

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.

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.

La Promesa de Girl Scouts
Por mi honor, yo trataré:
De servir a Dios y a mi patria, ayudar a las personas en todo momento, y vivir conforme a la Ley de Girl Scouts.

La Ley de Girl Scouts
Yo me esforzaré por:
Ser honrada y justa, cordial y servicial, considerada y compasiva, valiente y fuerte, y responsable de lo que digo y hago, y por respetarme a mí misma y a los demás, respetar la autoridad, usar los recursos de manera prudente, hacer del mundo un lugar mejor, y ser hermana de cada una de las Girl Scouts.