
HIGHEST AWARDS YEARBOOK



Membership Year 2021-2022

girl scouts
of california's
central coast





The Gold Award is the highest award a girl can earn in Girl Scouting. An award with national standards acknowledges an individual's accomplishments, leadership, commitment, creativity, and personal effort to make the world a better place. Each Gold Award project solves a community issue and improves lives while girls build their 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 significant accomplishment in a girl's life and an extension and compilation of all she has learned through her Girl Scout experience.

The Girl Scout Gold Award recognizes that girls need to become knowledgeable, involved, and proactive for girls to become leaders. 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 Senior or Ambassador 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 some 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!



Susan Belik | *Mental Health Through Visual Art for Teens*

For Susan's Gold Award project, Susan wanted to promote Visual Art as a self-care and wellness activity for teens in her community. She created an online virtual art gallery on "Padlet" called the Simi Valley High School Virtual Student Art Gallery where students were given a monthly art prompt. Students of all skill levels were encouraged to post their work and view other students' creations. During April, the SVHS Virtual Student Art Gallery collaborated with her city's multicultural event to promote cultural art and the respect of others. She also created a mural for her school's guidance counseling office, which featured a QR code that students can scan to be connected with free and low-cost mental health resources.



Samantha Bynder | *Make a Splash with no Trash!*

Samantha's project focused on teaching young children the importance of recycling and the impact not doing so has on marine life. She wrote, illustrated, and self-published a children's book, "Make A Splash With No Trash," whose storyline explained the importance of recycling and the negative impact of single-use plastic on aquatic animals. She then read the book to several kindergarten classes and presented a lesson and craft to further reinforce which items are recyclable. Samantha also implemented a recycling program at her former elementary school.



Vanessa Castrejon | *Community Health Center Dental Clinic Video project*

For Vanessa's Gold Award project, Vanessa created a bilingual video about oral hygiene in Spanish and English. Her video covered periodontal disease, gingivitis, calculus, bone loss, how to brush one's teeth, floss, and other vital information to achieve healthy teeth and gums. Community Health Center Dental Clinic will be using her video, hoping that patients will watch it and be more educated about oral hygiene.



Reagan Dalton | *Human Trafficking Awareness*

The root cause of Sex Trafficking is the lack of awareness of predators grooming tactics and exploitive online schemes targeting teenagers. Human Trafficking is a growing pandemic in the United States. California has one of the highest Human Trafficking rates. Due to COVID and increased time online and social isolation, the National Center for Missing Children reports online sex trafficking doubled in 2020 compared to the previous year. Education is more important now than ever. Reagan addressed the root cause by providing online education to groups of teenagers on Sex Trafficking awareness and prevention. She partnered with community members and led online presentations to local high schools and community groups to educate teenagers and parents on the prevalence of Human Trafficking globally and within our community. Her outreach was to inspire teens to get involved in this issue and help end Human Trafficking by continuing to spread education.





Emily Elbaum | *Interactive Education in the Outdoors*

Emily’s Gold Award project aimed to help students learn through fun and enjoy their education. All students learn differently, so by providing them with different ways to understand concepts, the hope is that they will all gain essential skills and truly love to learn. She painted a map of the 50 states of America on the playground of her local elementary school. She then created a website to go along with the map that includes a series of games, links, videos, and quizzes. The activities allowed students to learn the curriculum and require them to understand it in a more engaged and involved way. These students will hopefully retain the information they are learning since their experience is more enjoyable. The website is accessible to all, so even if students don’t use the map, they will participate in a more active learning experience using the best methods.



Jacqueline Emanuel | *Basketball VIP League*

Jacqueline’s Gold Award project brought different organizations together to support the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in a local basketball league. Although COVID-19 prevented the children from being able to participate this season, the audience gained a deeper understanding of ways to make their program more inclusive.



Cassidy Gard | *Sensory Path*

Cassidy created a sensory path at Virginia Peterson inside and outside so that kids could be able to get their wiggles out and take time to refocus. A sensory course is a series of guided movements for kids to follow, shown by markings on the ground or walls. Students who follow the path and complete the exercises work off excess energy and develop their gross motor skills. The various movements on the course are designed to engage different parts of the body and brain, from frog hops to spins and wall pushes. You can find sensory paths in school hallways or playgrounds, from pre-K through middle schools. Teachers often use sensory paths as their kids walk through a hallway between activities. These paths can be especially effective for students who experience frustration, anger, or other sensory overloads during a learning activity. Cassidy learned that working off some emotions can help them refocus when returning to their desk.



Riley Hearon | *Domestic Violence Awareness and Action Project*

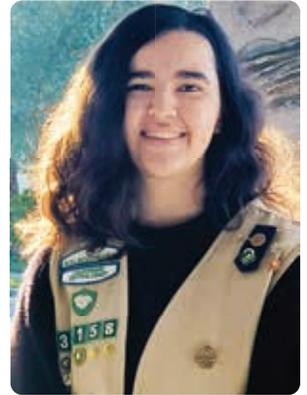
Riley partnered with the Catholic charity Good Shepherd Center, a women’s shelter for domestic abuse survivors in Los Angeles, for her Gold Award. For her project, she wanted to spread awareness about the taboo topic of domestic abuse and help women. Riley hosted three educational zoom workshops with a representative from the organization for the education aspect. To help the women, she created over 200 care packages containing necessities like shampoo, conditioner, hair ties, chapstick, socks, etc. Riley hand-crocheted seventy bracelets and sold them attached to information cards to raise the money for the care packages.



Katherine Hodges | *Website for Global Goodwill*

The Salinas-Kushikino Sister City Association, a non-profit organization established in 1979, bridges the citizens of Salinas, California, and Ichiki-Kushikino, Japan. Their goal was to create an annual summer student ambassador exchange program. In Japan, students stay with local families, attend school, meet with civic and youth leaders, and share ideas, culture, and goodwill. In 2019, Katherine represented the City of Salinas in Japan.

She learned about the Sister City Association. It had a limited online presence to promote the student exchange program, provide materials to prospective students applying to the program, and provide membership and funding information. She created a website for the association to spread its message through accredited information the association produces and testimonials from students who participated in the program.



Kayla Horton | *Monarch Waystation Educational Project*

Kayla created a nationally registered Monarch Waystation in the Life Lab at Tierra Linda Elementary School. This project was a collaborative effort involving teachers, the principal, and volunteers. It is now thriving and will produce many generations of Monarchs for future classes to enjoy and interactively learn. With the guidance of Ms. Adrian and online research, she created lesson plans for teachers to follow. The lesson plan includes information about Monarchs, their life cycle, and the two migration patterns of the monarchs.

It also provides information on how our environment has negatively impacted the Monarchs population by removing Milkweed, illegal deforestation of resting grounds, climate change, the maintenance of their Monarch Waystation, and how they now make a difference in the Monarch's ability to recover. These YouTube links highlight portions of the project: youtu.be/A83L9BdhgI0 and youtu.be/QDob6HzPgpY.



Nicole Jimenez | *Conejo Conservation Corps*

Nicole's Gold Award project focused on the preservation of native plant species in the Conejo Canyons Open Space and the destruction due to invasive plant species. She hosted hikes to educate people of all ages about invasive species. She translated environmental awareness literature into Spanish for those unable to understand the signs in English. Nicole worked with the Conejo Valley Open Space Foundation to replace the old signs with her new English and Spanish signs.



Millicent Hoffert | *Blazing A Trail*

While on a hike with her troop at Granite Ridge Camp, Millicent noticed that the camp didn't have any signs marking the directions for any of its trails. She wanted the camp to have clear markers for their trails so that others could enjoy hiking while they were experiencing the camp. Daniels Wood Land donated redwood for the trail signs, and Lowe's helped by donating other materials. David Kudija helped her engrave all of the larger trail signs. Millicent installed multiple large trail markers and several smaller markers with the help of her troop leader Debbie Jaeger and their families.





Christina Knight | *Special Needs Space*

Christina Knight worked with The Bridge Church, which has a ministry for children, teens, and young adults with disabilities and special needs on Saturdays and select Mondays. Christina noticed no support for families on Sundays during church service in the primary classroom. She saw a large community of special needs families in the Conejo Valley where parents provide 24/7 care. Christina provided relief to these parents on Sundays.



Naomi Licht | *Making Media with Positive LGBTQ+ Representation accessible in Libraries and Bookshops*

Licht created and funded the Purple Sticker Project organization to make books and other media with positive LGBTQIA+ representation more accessible to students from kindergarten to twelfth grade. Licht worked with a team to create criteria and a list of media with positive representation, design infographics like bookmarks and posters to teach students about the project, and create a website for the Purple Sticker Project with resources and book recommendations by grade level. Licht designed the stickers - a purple square on a white circle - to be distinctive but not LGBTQIA+ so that students can access LGBTQIA+ media without fear of others knowing. Licht led a team of students and adults from various local schools to advertise and continue the Purple Sticker Project under the Santa Cruz County Safe Schools Project umbrella.



Madison Martinich | *(HALE) Hearts Agricultural Learning Environment*

Madison designed, built and installed a therapeutic garden to benefit the riders and the horses at a local therapeutic horse riding facility. She then educated others on the benefits of having therapeutic gardens. Therapeutic gardens improve your mood, social skills, memory, cognition and promotes emotional growth.



Noemi López | *The Roots of Deforestation*

As part of the younger generation, one of Noemi's primary concerns was the future of our planet. With this, she decided to base her Gold Award project on climate change - specifically deforestation. In April, she began collaborating with teachers from each grade at Lang Ranch Elementary to assemble a grade-appropriate unit for their students regarding deforestation. They then decided to include examples of activities and materials, an A-Z book, friendly competitions, informative videos, poems, and digital comics. By the last week of school, the teachers taught their students this curriculum, and everyone came out with a better understanding of what deforestation is, what its causes are, why it is happening, and what we can do to help. In addition, Noemi uploaded the curriculum material onto Teachers Pay Teachers for free so that teachers nationwide can access informative and fun lessons they can teach their students while informing them of a serious issue.

**Alexandra Melton | *Kids 4 Kids Homes Christmas Campaign***

Alexandra worked with the local nonprofit Forever Found to bring Christmas gifts to children in foster care in Ventura County. She raised over \$700 to buy 12 gifts personalized to each child's requests. On top of that, she created permanent gifts to remain in both foster care houses—bathroom sets that included a shower curtain and other decorations to update the spaces. Alexandra designed a website for Forever Found to help solicit donations from local sponsors every year around Christmas. The website has directions on donating a Christmas gift for a child in foster care to continue her program and more information on the foster care system to educate people about the dangers of human trafficking and children in foster care.

**Natalie Mummery | *Helping Hands***

Natalie learned about her campus's homeless student population through a project she participated in ASB, associated with UCLA's Declaration Project. Natalie wanted to assist them, she spoke with approximately 360 homeless students and became the founder and president of "Helping Hands," a club that collects and distributes food, clothing, and hygiene supplies to students and their families. Natalie set up a pantry where distributions were made twice a week. As club president, she organized donation drives, an adopt a family program for Christmas, and organized fundraisers and club meetings. Natalie's school is committed to continuing her mission to help homeless students and construct a beautiful center to house donations so the students know where to get the help they need without shame.

**Esmeralda Romero | *Kids Staying Healthy***

Esmeralda's Gold Award helped parents with children that have disabilities to register for sports. She provided information on how to sign up and where to find information. Esmeralda also educated the youth on how important it is to eat healthy, stay active, and help people like her with autism and intellectual disabilities.

**Abigail Sauter | *Youth Leadership Development Camp***

Abigail addressed the lack of school programs available to youth, specifically leadership. She created a youth leadership development camp where activities focused on developing three primary skills: listening, initiative, and service to others. The few leadership development opportunities in her community are expensive, selective, and inaccessible to all community members. Many leadership camps are particular, prohibiting kids who want to develop leadership skills. Abigail wanted all attendees to achieve their personal goals and be better leaders for others. She addressed this by hosting events at local schools, posting on public websites, and locations such as libraries and Boys and Girls Clubs. She successfully taught kids positive leadership skills. Her camp trained youth to be leaders and contributing members of society who care for the world and the people around them.





Emily Vaughn | *Camp Arnaz Astronomy Program*

Emily’s Gold Award project is an astronomy program that allows girls to explore another field in STEM. Girls can use telescopes on the astronomy pad at Camp Arnaz and go through steps to complete badges. This program includes instructional materials such as using the telescopes and finding stars and other celestial bodies; educational programs such as troop activities, star charts, and other resources; and a checkout system for the telescopes and other equipment.



Laura Vetter | *Civic Engagement with High Schoolers*

For Laura’s Gold Award, Laura worked to increase awareness of civic engagement opportunities for high schoolers. She promoted poll working and preregistering to vote in her school and local communities by educating 16 and 17 years that they are eligible to preregister to vote and poll work. Laura’s project aimed to provide resources for teachers and other high school educators to continue to educate high schoolers of their civic duties and rights.

Laura learned the importance of perseverance because there were many times throughout her project where she would have to go back and brainstorm again after hitting an obstacle.



Jasmine Winter | *Hillcrest Math Learning Games and Activities*

In December 2019, Jasmine read an article in the local newspaper about math proficiency at a local school in Ventura County. It sparked her idea to focus her Girl Scout Gold Award project on math literacy, specifically targeting the source of students’ lack of enthusiasm for the subject. She was aware that she could not change the school’s curriculum, so she turned her interest toward creating fun activities that might make a difference in enthusiasm.

Jasmine created kits to teach addition, subtraction, division, multiplication, pattern recognition, and number recognition. Since all kits are craft-based and either include food items or messy art supplies such as sidewalk chalk, the kindergarten and first-grade students found them fun and were not hesitant to participate because of the involvement of math.



Annika Wagner | *Koegel Autism Center Social Room & Activity Binder*

For her gold award, Annika raised money to purchase furniture, art, and materials for the Koegel Autism Center. The room design incorporated soft textured furniture and adjustable lighting that are appropriate and appealing for non-neurotypical teens who may have sensory integration challenges. The furniture includes an adjustable table that could configure various seating options for everyone’s comfort. She created a binder of activities to help teens interact during social group meetings, arts and crafts, and games to engage in to help fine motor skills and relaxation while waiting for group activities to begin.

Annika’s purpose helped provide an environment and activities specifically for teens and young adults because too many therapeutic and social group environments for non-neurotypical people are geared toward more youthful kids, not teens and young adults. She created a space where they would like to be.



Troop 60482 Rainbow Of Kindness Project - painted and decorated rocks with inspirational messages. The kindness rocks were left around parks and given to first responders in their community for their gratitude.

Troop#	Project Title
• 10207	Blacktop Games
• 11205	SPCA Benches
• 30304 / 70357	Bus Stop Makeover
• 30603	Homeless blessing bags
• 32140	Sewing Patch for GSCCC
• 35605	CYC Teen Hangout
• 40029	Bored Banana
• 40306	Anti-plastic project
• 50310	Stories of American Legion Veterans
• 50503	Sweatshirts for Learning
• 50507	Warrior Goat Mentor
• 50551	Santa Barbara Homeless Resource Handout
• 50815	Clean Beach Challenge
• 50815	Grab and Grow kits
• 50886	Protecting the Environment
• 50886	Interactive Toddler Toys for Transition House
• 55504	Reusable pad project - menstruation products made for girls in a boarding school in Kenya
• 60206	Blankets For Better
• 60482	Rainbow of Kindness Project
• 60491	Helping Our Furry Friends
• 60738	Blankets for fosters
• 60738	Tennis Ball Library
• 60821	Tile Cross
• 60829	K9 Moorpark Water Station
• 60829	Building a table for the Moorpark Food Pantry
• 61003	Safe Passage Camp Craft Kits
• 61102	Preschool Little Library
• 61104	STEM Entrepreneur Leaders
• 61104	Unity in Diversity School Mural
• 70660	Building the Hope Packed Project website and helping them get organized

“When Girl Scout Cadettes focus on an issue they care about, learn the facts, and take action to make a difference, they gain the confidence and skills that will catapult them to lifelong success. It all adds to the Girl Scout Silver Award—the highest honor a Cadette can achieve.”

Troop#	Project Title
• 10000	Hope's Closet
• 10237	To bring new life to Brook Knoll and create a sense of lasting pride for the school
• 23490	Blessing Bags
• 30000	Chemotherapy Care Bags
• 30222	Little Library
• 32096	Planting and Caring for our Trees
• 35605	The Carmel Youth Center Mental Health and Support
• 35708	Pet Supply Drive
• 40000	Eagle Enrichment Perch for Zoo to You
• 41023	Teaching a younger group to care for animals
• 45304	Helping Homeless Animals
• 50209	Caring Community
• 55101	Camp Arnaz Benches
• 60289	Operation Birthday Bag Donation
• 60656	Upcycled Bottle Cap Project
• 60942	Interface
• 61093	Equine Therapy and Education
• 61135	Curtains for Cats
• 61140	How to Stay Connected to Seniors During COVID-19
• 61235	Stepping stones for school garden
• 63042	Helping the Local Homeless
• 63043	Arnaz Library
• 65304	Project Homeless
• 65400	Animal Shelter Helpers
• 65417	James Storehouse Partnership
• 65500	Shelter Hope
• 65601	Animal Shelter Care
• 65701	Buddy Benches

“When Girl Scout Juniors team up to make a difference in their community, they learn essential leadership skills, discover new passions, and watch how seemingly small actions make a big difference. It all adds up to the Girl Scout Bronze Award—the highest honor a Junior can achieve.”



Troop 65701 posing with their refurbished Buddy Benches at Arroyo West Elementary School and Flory Academy of Sciences and Technology.

Since 1916, approximately one million Girl Scouts have been making a meaningful, sustainable change in their communities and worldwide 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 empowering and bettering herself and making the world a better place for others. These young women are courageous leaders and visionary changemakers.

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

Girl Scout Gold Award at a Glance:

Golden Eagle 1916-1939

Curved Bar Award 1940-1963

First Class 1963-1980

Gold Award 1980-present

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 efforts ensure the success of our Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast Gold Award Girl Scouts. Their dedication 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.

**Members may substitute for the word God
in accordance with their own spiritual beliefs.*

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.

**Los miembros pueden sustituir la palabra Dios
de acuerdo con sus propias creencias espirituales.*

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 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.