

# Girl Scout Gold Award at a Glance:

Golden Eagle 1916-1939

Curved Bar Award 1940-1963

First Class 1963-1980

Gold Award 1980-present

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 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.

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.

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girl scouts  
of california's  
central coast

# HIGHEST AWARDS

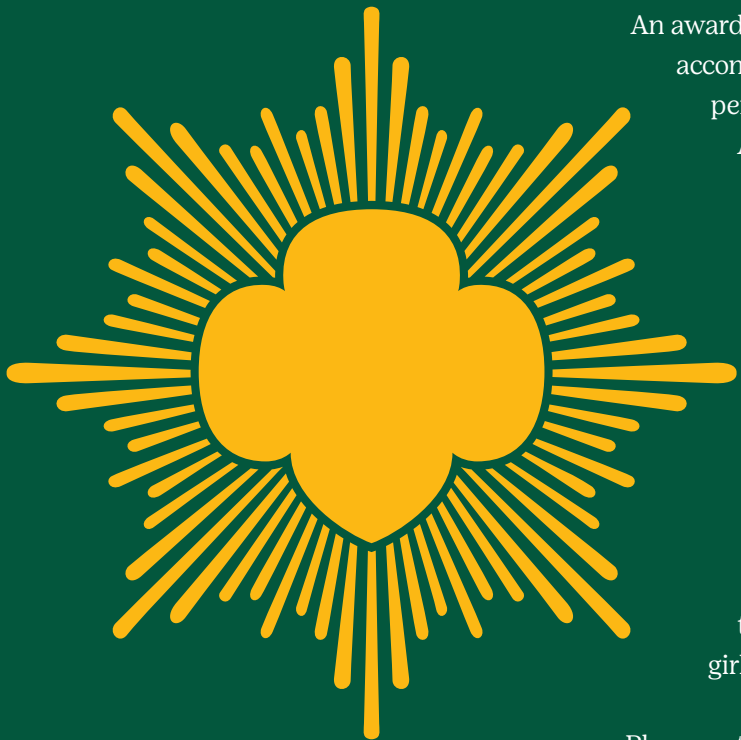


# YEARBOOK



girl scouts  
of california's  
central coast

# Congratulations to this year's Gold Award Girl Scouts!



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.

Please note, while we celebrate all of our Gold Award Girls, some recipients have requested to be omitted from the publication.

- 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.



Troop#	Project Title
• 15015	Protecting the Planet, Pets and Penguins
• 15020	Toys and Treats for the Santa Cruz Animal Shelter
• 25004	Helping the Feral Cat Population of San Benito County
• 50463	Succulent Garden and Painted Rocks
• 50748	Spaceland Playground
• 55010	Central Coast Aquarium Poster Project
• 55507	Composting at SBCS
• 55507	Banner for BUNS
• 55522	Preschool Lending Library
• 61105	Ventura River Cleanup
• 61105	Hollywood Beach Rock Garden
• 61690	Fundraising for Felines
• 63041	Toy Drive
• 65318	Trails to Inspiration
• 65421	Beach Clean-up on 4/22/23
• 65048	Helping Out Community's Animals, Team Dog and Team Cat
• 65431	My Stuff Bags Foundation
• 65504	Leave No Trace
• 65739	Girl Power is the Best Power
• 66009	Feed Hungry Pets

“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.”



**Top left:** Troop 15015 - Protecting the Planet, Pets, and Penguins **Bottom left:** Troop 65048 - Helping Out Community's Animals, Team Dog and Team Cat **Middle:** Troop 55507 - Banners for Buns **Right:** Troop 50463 - Succulent Garden and Painted Rocks



**Abigail Gaston | *Heat Illness Warning Signs***

Abigail had read an article about Jenni Parks, a woman who shared the heartbreaking story of her son Jake, who succumbed to a heat stroke while hiking. Which made Abigail aware of the broader lack of awareness about heat illness, she reached out to Jenni and Ashlee Mayfield, President of the Montecito Trails Foundation (“MTF”). After countless hours of research, she created heat illness warning signs for local trailheads. These signs, complemented by a QR code linking to a website she developed which provides important information to recognize the symptoms of a heat illness. She actively sought donations and volunteers for educational trail pop-ups at which she and her volunteers passed out fluids, electrolytes, and snacks and educated and passers-by about heat illness. Stories emerged of friends saving each other or people saving themselves due to the awareness generated by Jake’s story and her signs. This project was not just about signs—it was about awareness, education, and, ultimately, saving lives in the community.



**Alyssa Rice | *A Guide to Engineering Badges***

Alyssa wanted to increase participation for young girls in Mechanical Engineering badges. Knowing there is a significant stigma of low females in engineering roles, she hopes to change this by introducing engineering in a fun and exciting way to young girls through Girl Scout programming. Alyssa created a website with videos and resources to inspire more Daisy, Brownie, and Junior troop leaders to complete the nine different Mechanical Engineering badges offered by Girl Scouts. She also led engineering activities with a local troop and group of elementary school girls to demonstrate to them that engineering can be fun and accessible for everyone. She hopes her project inspires more girls to pursue higher education or a career within engineering.



**Amrita Kumar | *Helping Special Needs Students***

School is often a stressful environment due to loud noises, bright lights, and crowds of people, which can often lead to sensory overload. In order to relieve special education students at her high school from sensory overload, Amrita created a dedicated sensory room to help provide relief to individuals in order to make school a safer environment for them. She also created a website to educate people on the benefits of a sensory room, and how to create one themselves.



**Ashlynn Bean | *Remedying Communication - Informative Board***

Ashlynn’s Gold Award project was a project that bridged together her community and her local school activities. She achieved this by putting together a team of local high school students that helped her to build a portable wooden bulletin board. The bulletin board addressed and resolved the issue of lack of awarness for community involvement for sports and activities at her local high school campus. This informative board has resulted in better communication to students and community members to be more involved making the area a cohesive community.



Troop 12014 - Healthy Pets Happy Pets



Troop 10237 - Cookie Box Cat Scratchers



Troop 40306 - Girl Scout Spring Camp

Troop#	Project Title
• 10005	Art Classes for Children
• 10005	SPCA Promotional Video
• 10237	Cat Scratchers for the Animal Shelter
• 10237	First Aid Quick Reference Guide
• 10237	Santa Cruz Memorial Enhancement Project
• 12014	Healthy Pets Happy Pets
• 20533	The Give Warmth Project
• 30610	Dojo Do-Over
• 35206	New Community Bus Stop
• 40306	Girl Scout Spring Camp
• 45003	Atascadero Colony Days, Preserving History in Small Town America through Vounteer Recruitment and Updating the City Hall Tour
• 50053	Camp Arnaz Pollinator Garden
• 50503	Bunny Hutch Remodel
• 60385	Encouraging Sustainable Packaging and Proper Waste Disposal in Ventura
• 60385	The Importance of Menstrual Equity in our Schools
• 60811	Support for the Preschoolers at Step Up Ventura
• 61055	Helping Hats
• 61105	Fidget Quilts for People with Alzheimer’s and Dementia
• 61234	Comfort for Cancer Patients
• 63038	Sensory Mural Path
• 63041	Beauty In Our Community
• 63041	Ride-a-Horse
• 63041	Autism Awareness
• 63041	Girl Self Defense Class
• 65016	Strengthening VC Families: Birthday Bags
• 65016	Balboa Middle School Pride Parade
• 65304	Animal Shelter Training Video
• 65401	Activity Kits & Rock Garden for the Ronald McDonald House
• 65401	We Can Change The World
• 65521	James Storehouse
• 65601	Sycamore Garden Plant Organization and Identification Sign Installation
• 65701	Restoring Mountain Meadows Plant Life
• 66563	Many Mansions Summer Camp
• 70150	Santa Cruz Flood Drive

“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.”



### Quinn Heller | *Save a Life: Recognizing Signs & Symptoms of Anaphylaxis*

Quinn's Gold Award project focused on raising awareness and educating others about food allergies. She created an interactive presentation that was shared at her local library's Teen Wellness Event and to 5th and 6th grade students at her former elementary school. Through this presentation students were taught to recognize the signs and symptoms of mild and severe allergic reactions. Participants learned what to do if they encountered someone having a reaction, how to notify an adult in an emergency situation, and how to administer Epinephrine (Epi-pen and Auvi-Q). Students were able to practice using an Epi-pen trainer on themselves so they would feel comfortable administering one in case of emergency. She created and distributed pamphlets with the information presented so students could teach others about what they learned.



### Sarah Ziff | *I Voted: Registering and Casting a Ballot*

For her Gold Award, Sarah worked on educating high school students on how to register to vote and read a ballot. Sarah recognized that low voter registration and an even lower turnout among young voters resulted in their voice not being heard. Through her efforts in her government classes and on school property she worked to encourage her peers about the importance of registering and voting. In collaboration with her government and US history teachers she created an engaging lesson plan to be used in 12th grade government classes informing students on how to register to vote, read a ballot, and vote.



### Autumn Salinas | *Graphing and Mapping the Veterans Memorial Tiles*

Autumn's Gold Award project was a dedicated to assisting visitors of the Memorial Tiles find their loved ones tile in the memorial. She created a graphing system on a kiosk to locate the Memorial tiles on the ground. Her project was inspired by the past Commander of the VFW post 9242, her Uncle George Nava, along with her Grandfather Louie Nava Sr., who also has a tile in the memorial. Autumn was given not only permission, but even funding from City Council to install the kiosk. The kiosk contains small plates in a grid system that have the San Benito County Veteran's names organized numerically. The kiosk was also designed to contain more names as the ground tiles increase and are placed in the memorial. After installation, she was able to see visitors using the kiosk on Memorial Day which gave her with a sense of pride and accomplishment.



### Brooke Ball | *F.L.A.M.E. (Financial Literacy and Money Education)*

Brooke wanted to help young students found to not be exposed to basic financial principles and money matters. She feels there is currently a lack of financial education in public education. In many areas of the country, such as her hometown, school districts do not have the budget to teach necessary financial concepts and parents are not in a position to mentor their children. Furthermore, organizations and professionals who could educate students are unable to help due to lack of resources or economic barriers. As a result, poor financial decisions arise later in a students life that could have been avoided. To help reduce this problem, she created financial literacy activity kits that teach students about needs and wants; budgeting; compound interest; investment risk, and the concepts of saving, giving, and spending. The kits provide a fun way to learn vital financial principles while playing games.



### Cadence Oerlemans | *Drumline Practice Grid*

For Cadence's Gold Award project, she created a permanent practice grid for the music program at Buena High School. It consisted of a 50-foot by 80-foot grid of painted lines in a grid format that match the dimensions of the drumline practice area for the indoor competitive season. Along with the practice area, she created an instruction manual and guide. The grid became an important tool that she provided to the Buena High School Music Department.



### Caitlin Bayaca | *Painting a Positive School Culture*

Caitlin promoted social-emotional development among students through several art projects she led at Mintie White Elementary School. She directed students in painting a mural of their school mascot, giving them an opportunity to participate in a project that reflects positive school culture and camaraderie. She also designed and painted a sensory path that taught students how to utilize the path for an interactive and positive social interaction.



### Caty Taylor | *Food Waste, It's Not in Good Taste*

Caty's Gold Award project was to bring awareness to the increasing issue of food waste. Caty created and published a food waste curriculum that individuals or classrooms could use (with the target audience around 5th to 8th grade). She taught her curriculum to various students at her school to spread information about the rising issue and share knowledge about how to create food waste systems.



### Clara Ainsworth | *Trash Can Beautification*

Clara led a team of high school volunteers who painted over 60 of Lompoc High School's indoor trash cans with California native wildflowers. The team also painted a large outdoor trash can with a Chumash Brave. The team the project a bit more scholarly through adding the scientific names of the flowers on each trash can. This project aimed to help teens over the summer who struggle with getting outside form friendships and express themselves. Art is a powerful creative outlet that brings the community together, and now that school is back in session the teachers seemed pleasantly surprised by their new trash cans that are now works of art.



### Delaney Drew | *Safe Space for Friends*

For her Gold Award Project, Delaney remodeled a children's playroom at her local women's shelter. Her goal was to create a safe and caring environment for children at a time in their life that may be scary or challenging. Some of the features included a quiet corner for reading, coloring sheets with positive affirmations, and a chalk board. She also hung a clothesline with the intention that kids could hang up their finished coloring pages for everyone to see! Delaney was very pleased with the final room display despite challenges she faced designing it. She is proud to have provided an engaging shelter to children in need.



### Grace Machala | *Mandarin Duck Habitat Improvement*

Grace visited and saw a need to improve the Mandarin Duck Habitat. She organized a plan and built nesting boxes to add to the habitat. Grace improved the enclosure of four mandarin ducks and designed a healthy diet plan for them. The ducks enjoyed their new habitat additions to their enclosure.



### Jolina Le | *Building Cultural Community: AAPI Student Association*

Jolina founded her high school's Asian American & Pacific Islander Student Association (AAPISA). She advocated for racial educational equity and provided a community for AAPI students. AAPISA hosted its first-annual Lunar New Year Festival in 2022. This entailed weeks of preparing handmade paper lanterns, a 7-foot-long dragon puppet, and custom-designed stickers. Club members presented their families' cultures and attendees were invited to engage with all these nations' traditions, games, candies, and languages. Her project also introduced students to civic engagement through a congressional letter-writing campaign in support of the Lunar New Year Day Act. In observance of API Heritage Month, she launched the "History Through the Halls" initiative by researching and designing twenty autobiographical posters of historic API people. This showcased diverse figures across ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and disability. This appealed to student interests by including a wide range of activists, scientists, politicians, movie stars, journalists, Olympians, and more. The booklet of materials was digitized for use in subsequent years. With Jolina's guidance, the AAPISA has successfully fostered a sense of belonging for AAPI students, and its legacy continues on!



### Lola Forbes-Black | *Small Words, Big Impact!*

The aim of Lola's project was to address and educate her peers and community members on inclusive vocabulary while spreading basic information about the LGBTQ+ community. Many people don't know where to find this information. They may feel awkward asking individuals or may not have access to an openly queer person in their life. So, she made a slideshow with extensively researched information including statistics, resources, and tips from actual queer youth. Then, she presented it to twelve different organizations in the community, including the Kiwanis, Soroptimists, and Simi Valley Unified School District Department of Education. She was also included in a community newsletter (The Diversity Collective) for several weeks in a row. Her slideshow was also presented online, free of charge on teacherspayteachers.com, where it is still accessible. Throughout the process she collected data on how this information affected people. Her goal was to educate as many people as possible with rich and new information that will make them more comfortable when speaking to or about the LGBTQ+ community or LGBTQ+ individuals.



### Morgan Lipman | *Addressing Kids & Food Insecurity*

Morgan's Gold Award projects was aimed to educate children about food insecurity and the effects it has on the world as a whole. She taught children how to help improve this issue in their communities by teaching them how to run a canned food drive. A step by step tutorial was provided to improve success rates of canned food drives initiated by children through Morgan's YouTube channel and dedicated website.



### Sofia Villegas | *Building Gardens and Knowledge*

Sofia's project, Building Gardens and Knowledge, focused on educating elementary-aged students about the importance of gardening and how this gained knowledge can help set them up for success and food security in their future. She built and donated two garden boxes to her local elementary school and made a gardening guide for classrooms. She also taught local Girl Scouts using her gardening guide to further spread the impact. This project taught her the importance of community engagement and perseverance.