



The 2018-2019 Girl Scout  
*Gold Awards*

  
**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, 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."



**Taylor Burke**

*Renovating a Crafts 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.

"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."



**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.

"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!"

## 2018-2019 GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUTS



### Sarah Clench

*Activating the Brain Through Music*



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

"I further developed my creativity, positivity, communication, and coordination of resources. I learned that persistence is key to getting tasks done, especially when working with others. My project reaffirmed my love for music and that I am always a Girl Scout, go-getter, innovator, risk-taker, and leader!"



### 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 I am much stronger than I think I am. I kept pushing myself through the hardest parts of the project, writing the lesson plans and teaching the lessons, and asking for help when I needed it. I found out that I am passionate about creating other leaders and not just leading others."



### 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."



### 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, creativity 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."



### Adriana Ferraro

*Bonding Through Books*



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

"Throughout my Gold Award project, I learned the importance of strong and open communication. The lessons that I acquired through this project will last me a lifetime, and I feel well prepared to tackle any obstacle that comes my way."



### Emily Greene

*Food for Thought Mural*



Addressed the issue of foodwaste 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."



### 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

*Goat Topia*



Built a play structure for goats at a farm healing sanctuary which services veterans, addiction recovery groups, foster children, troubled youth, and those seeking treatment for anxiety and depression.

"My experiences have added to my growing maturity and confidence around animals. Volunteering on the farm and learning how it runs has helped form my desire to work with animals in the future, possibly running my own animal therapy environment."



### 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."

**Girl Scouts of California's  
Central Coast serves six  
counties:**

**Santa Cruz**

**Monterey**

**San Benito**

**San Luis Obispo**

**Santa Barbara, and**

**Ventura**

## 2018-2019 GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUTS



### Sydney Kuchta

*Tangible History: An Outdoor Classroom to Teach and Enrich*



Created an outdoor classroom to increase reading comprehension and understanding of local history.

“Finally completing the project and seeing children using and enjoying the space was an especially fulfilling moment. I have heard from children at the school about how much they are enjoying the books I chose for the free library, and seeing them incorporate the book titles into their artwork and into their letter writing lessons is pretty flattering.”



### 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.”



### 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.”



### 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.”



Many Gold Award Projects include creating unique curriculum that can be used by educators to make a lasting impact.

Gold Award Project: Leading for Change

## 2018-2019 GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUTS



### Lauren Markus

*Baking and Bonding*



Provided free baking classes as a way for foster families to connect and spend valuable time together.

“I have learned that I can make a difference in the world without waiting for someone else to start a project. I know that I can lead a group to impact people’s lives in a positive and long-lasting way.”



### 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 agtech, 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.”



### 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.”



### Jenna Naumann

*Pain Pals for CRPS Warriors*



Sewed stuffed animals for Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) pediatric patients to use during desensitization therapy.

“Throughout my project, I learned how large an impact a seemingly small project can have on people; not only the kids at CHLA who will receive a Pain Pal, but CRPS warriors all over the world. This inspired me to continue my project outside of Girl Scouts and make Pain Pals for many more people than what my initial project supplied.”



### 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.”



### Isabel Ponce

*MVP Gold*



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.”

## 2018-2019 GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUTS



### Audrey Sauter

*Mud Kitchen*



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."



### Emma Scott

*MVP Gold (Girls Offering Leadership Development)*



Prepared an art workshop for children with special needs for 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."



### Lauren Sinopoli

*Sports Workshop for Children with Special Needs*



Created a sports workshop for children with special needs at a summer camp.

"I learned that I have a huge passion for helping the dismissed people on the borders of society. This project encouraged my newly realized desire to aid the marginalized, in addition to future career paths. Every child has a unique personality that deserves an opportunity to be broadcasted through sports and friendships."



### Jenna Stuck

*Feral Cat Structure*



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

"At first I 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."



## 2018-2019 GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUTS



### Neha Thiagarajan

*Dance for Diversity*



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."



### Jaymie Throop

*Paso Robles High School Uniform Management*



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."



### Alina Tong

*Learn, Prevent, Care: Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness*



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."



### Sarah Wang

*Bee Friendly*

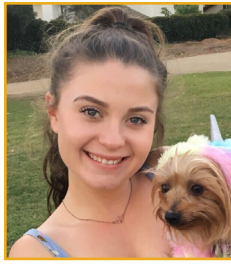


Created a curriculum for second-grade students to address the decline in honeybee population and educate on bee conservation tactics.

"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."



## 2018-2019 GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUTS



**Rachel Wright**

*Murals for Mutts*



Created a pet adoption mural and hashtag for the Simi Valley Animal Shelter and educated day camp attendees on pet adoptions.

"I learned to be more confident about my ideas, how to problem-solve artistically, and how to communicate with adults."



**Isbaella Zavala**

*Busy Bees*



Make kits for kids with family members in the hospital to keep them busy while waiting.

"The feeling of joy when I was able to give a Busy Bee bag to a patient in the ER was the most successful aspect of my project. I wasn't expecting to get to see the impact of the bags personally. I knew the patient wasn't feeling well, and for just a moment when she smiled at me, I knew all the hard work and hours was so worth it."



**Marina Zernik**

*TOHS Educational Habitat*



Increased environmental awareness on campus by beautifying and rehabilitating a school outdoor habitat.

"I learned a lot about developing my leadership skills, and the importance of persistence and hard work. The amount of people that came together to accomplish rehabilitating the garden was really amazing to me. Not only did my project help the community, but it helped me to keep going even in the face of obstacles."



**Laura Zwirn**

*Introductory Robotics Class for Middle School and High School Students*



Created an introductory course in robotics for middle & high school students to encourage involvement in STEM and inspire future STEM careers.

"I learned that the most important thing about teaching a class is uplifting the students and helping them to be confident and successful. The class must travel at the pace of the students, rather than at the pace of the teacher. Through teaching and assisting, I recognized that I am a patient person who can be calm and flexible in trying situations."



Gold Award Project: Feral Cat Structure

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.

## Girl Scout Gold Award at a Glance:

**Golden Eaglet 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 committee members' efforts ensure the success of our GSCALicentralcoast 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.



  
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