



## **Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast Celebrates Adult Award Honorees and 2021 Women of Distinction**

*Annual event takes place virtually on Thursday, May 20*

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In our largest annual celebration, Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast honors key individuals who drive lasting change in the Girl Scout organization and beyond. Breaking Barriers to Build Change: Featuring Women of Distinction and Annual Awards will recognize community leaders that advocate for girls at all levels, create opportunities for young female leaders, act as exemplary role models, and provide girls the skills to be successful in their professional and personal lives.

On Thursday, May 20, Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast will honor these distinguished individuals for their accomplishments, community leadership, and commitment to making a positive difference. This virtual event brings together and recognizes purpose-driven leaders who, like Girl Scouts, are always ready and willing to serve their communities and pave the way towards a brighter future.

Our 2021 Women of Distinction recognizes six women who have made significant contributions in one or more of the key focus areas for Girl Scout success: Healthy Living, Financial Empowerment, S.T.E.M., Leadership, and Community Responsibility. As determined by the Girl Scout Research Institute, girls who have positive influences in these areas are more likely to gain essential skills and find success even beyond their years in Girl Scouts. We are excited to announce this year's honorees as Assistant Chief, Denise Shadinger, Keisha Browder, Michelle Yee, Dr. Amy Fleischer, Karey Muller, and Erika Sintigo. These women represent public servants, engineers, working professionals, community advocates, dedicated volunteers, and much more. We are so grateful for their dedication to the success of all girls and the value they bring to our organization.

"Our amazing volunteers, adult awardee recipients, and Women of Distinction are individuals whose lives are rooted in the Girl Scouts' ideals of courage, confidence, and



character,” said council CEO Tammie Helmuth. “They make the world a better place every day by supporting all endeavors of our girls and are the backbone of our organization.”

In addition to honoring our annual Women of Distinction, attendees will also celebrate community leaders and volunteers that have left a lasting impact on the council. The Fund Development Award recognizes a volunteer whose outstanding service provided financial support to the council through increasing contributions of in-kind donations, grants, endowments, and major gifts, as well as individual benefactions. We will celebrate the legacy of Fund Development Award honoree Rod Dewar, whose generous contributions supported Girl Scouts of California’s Central Coast for over 22 years. Rod helped bring program centers and girl-led adventures to life, and we are honored to remember his passion for improving the lives of others.

Dylan Zulueta will receive council’s Girl Scout of the Year Award, which celebrates a high school-level Girl Scout that exemplifies through both words and actions the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, and service. Recipients of this award uphold the mission of Girl Scouts, have held leadership positions in Girl Scouts and the community, and embody the Girl Scout Promise and Law in their everyday lives.

New this year, Girl Scouts of California’s Central Coast will recognize their first Employee of the Year, Tammie Trejo, for her revamp of the council’s internal technology process and dedication to the Girl Scout mission.

Honoree Stewart Hall will receive the Art McLoughlin Award, which celebrates registered male adults with a consecutive contribution for two or more years in any capacity that supports Girl Scouts.

Additionally, Adult Award recipients will be recognized throughout the reception for their dedication to helping girls develop crucial skills and confidence in their journey to a lifetime of leadership. Such awards include the Volunteer of Excellence, Appreciation and Honor Pins, Thanks Badge, Super Service Unit Award, Regional Leader of the Year Award, and more. These recognitions celebrate volunteers that partner directly with girls, support council’s delivery of the Girl Scout mission, provide outstanding service to other volunteers, and go above and beyond to provide exceptional leadership opportunities.

Girl Scouts of California’s Central Coast would like to give special thanks to the community partnerships that helped make this event possible. We appreciate our Ambassador Sponsors, Bette Grace, Sue Roth, and Gina Silva. Thank you to our Bronze Sponsors, Santa Cruz County Bank and Thousand Oaks Inn, as well as our Silver Sponsors, D’Arrigo Bros. Our Gold Sponsors are Conejo Awards and Engraving Wizards,



Gerald and Mary McCullough, and Ocean Mist. Finally, we recognize our Signature Sponsors, Bank of America and Insperity, for helping us honor the volunteers and Girl Scout supporters that are making a difference in our community.

This event is an incredible opportunity to learn more about the individuals that make Girl Scouts possible, from behind the scenes to the front lines. Our mission is to raise \$65k to support the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, ensuring that all girls in our local communities have the support, experiences, and opportunities they need to realize their fullest potential. To support your fellow community members and help provide life-changing experiences for our girls, [register today!](#)

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#### **About Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast**

Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast serves over 8,800 girls across six counties and is committed to making the Girl Scout Leadership Experience available to girls in ways that impact their lives both in the moment and into the future. Girls participate in troops, individual projects, council events, day camps, resident camps and more. A variety of leadership, outdoor skills, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) based programs and events provide girls with opportunities to learn and explore in fun and informative ways. To join or volunteer in Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara or Ventura County, visit: <http://www.girlscoutscoc.org>.