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Simi Valley Girl Scout Earns Gold Award

Paige Barrella initiated the project Stop Bullying Me to address bullying in her community.

Ventura, CA – Paige Barrella from Troop 60977 in Simi Valley completed her Gold Award project by addressing bullying in her community. As the highest honor in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award recognizes girls in high school who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through projects that have both a local and global impact. By creating social media platforms and educational videos, Paige was able to raise awareness of this issue within her community.

Her project, Stop Bullying Me, addresses students and teachers on the importance of recognizing when bullying is occurring, and how to stop it. Paige created numerous digital platforms to share her message, including a website, Facebook page, Instagram account, and YouTube channel. She presented to students at local middle schools and created educational videos detailing how to prevent bullying, which were shown throughout the Simi Valley School District and at significant institutions such as the Ronald Reagan Library.

On her project choice, Paige said “I did this project to show bullying victims that they are not alone and to help them through their struggles. Most of the time when you hear about bullying it seems like it never happens in your own personal life. Through my project I’ve come to realize that even some of my closest friends have been or are being bullied. It’s important to communicate and share our experiences so that we know what to do if it happens to us.”

Paige created a Young Social Activists club at her school in order to encourage students to practice empathy and help others. Her project was recognized as a PACER National Champion Against Bullying for her community leadership and dedication to helping create a world without bullying.

“The root cause of bullying is teens not knowing when they are hurting others. When a student has problems in the home or at school but don’t have an outlet to express these issues, they act out by bullying. I thoroughly address this in my video series by suggesting activities that teach students to spread optimism and make friends, rather than tearing others down. I want my audience to gain open mindedness towards all people.”

Paige hopes that her efforts will be able to reach kids across the globe. “Bullying is a problem everywhere. No matter where you go there will always be people being mean to each other and



spreading hate. By creating this project, I have found a way to reach out to people in order to spread awareness and help victims of bullying everywhere,” she says.

About GSCCC

Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast serves over 10,200 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, Arts and Math (STEAM) 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>.

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