



Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast named Emily Calkins of Carpinteria, CA its top youth volunteer of the year.

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Ventura, CA —

Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast named Emily Calkins of Carpinteria, CA its top youth volunteer of the year today. The honor was granted as part of the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide youth volunteer recognition program sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

By selecting Emily as its top youth volunteer, Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast has advanced her application for state-level judging in the 2020 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. Prudential will announce California's top youth volunteers of the year on February 4, 2020.

Emily rebuilt unstable terraces to keep part of a UNESCO World Heritage site in Italy from falling into the ocean. "I wanted to help people who went through the same type of natural disaster as I did in California," says Emily. "I learned the complex art of Italian masonry and completed the restoration of two 10 foot tall terraces that had been previously neglected due to local families rushing to hospitality careers."

Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast also recognized Dylan Zulueta of Camarillo, CA for their exemplary volunteer service with Prudential Spirit of Community Certificates of Merit. Dylan created a homework help program to help students excel in math. Dylan shared that the program "was an opportunity for older students to volunteer and help younger kids understand math concepts and feel more comfortable."

"We are proud of all of the amazing work our Girls do locally and globally, says CEO Tammie Helmuth. We are honored to be a part of their philanthropic journey and the incredible responsibility of helping building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place."

As a Local Honoree, Emily is now in the running to be named one of two Prudential Spirit of Community State Honorees for California. State Honorees receive a \$1,000 scholarship and an all-expense-paid trip with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C., for several days of special recognition events. Other state-level honorees will receive bronze medallions or Certificates of Excellence.



During the national recognition events in Washington, America's top 10 youth volunteers of the year will be named by a distinguished selection committee. Each of these National Honorees will receive an additional \$5,000 scholarship, a trophy for his or her school or organization, and a \$5,000 Prudential Foundation grant for a charitable nonprofit organization of their choice.

"Young people who contribute their time and talents to their communities are role models for all of us," said Prudential

Chairman and CEO Charles F. Lowrey. "We salute their dedication, their achievements, and their spirit of community." "Demonstrating civic responsibility through community volunteerism is an important part of life," said NASSP Executive Director JoAnn Bartoletti. "These Honorees practice a lesson we hope all young people, as well as adults, will emulate."

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards represents America's largest youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteer service. Since 1995, the program has honored more than 130,000 youth volunteers at the local, state and national level. Learn more at spirit.prudential.com or nassp.org/spirit.

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>.

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