



2015

GOLD AWARD CEREMONY

AND

YOUNG WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

*with a special salute to our
2015 Silver Award recipients*

Saturday, May 30, 2015

9:00 am

Brunch and Ceremony

Quidnessett Country Club

North Kingstown, RI

Presented By:



Other Sponsors:



Cameron &
Mittleman, LLP

Navigant
Credit Union

Wave Federal
Credit Union



AWARD DESCRIPTIONS



About the Gold Award

The Gold Award has evolved from a long line of Girl Scout leadership awards which recognize older girls who make a difference in their communities. The Girl Scout Gold Award was first introduced in 1980, but has been known as the Golden Eagle of Merit (1916-1918), Golden Eaglet (1919-1938), Curved Bar Award (1940-1963), and the First Class Award (1938-1940 and 1963-1980).

Approximately one million Girl Scouts have earned the Gold Award or its equivalent since 1916. Currently, between 5-6 percent of eligible Girl Scouts earn the Gold Award annually. The Gold Award recognizes the work of Girl Scouts who demonstrate leadership, culminating in 90 hours or more dedicated toward a Take Action Project that has a sustainable impact in the community.

About the Silver Award

The Girl Scout Silver Award – the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette in grades 6-8 can earn – gives girls the chance to show they are a leader who is organized, determined, and dedicated to improving their community. After completing one Cadette Journey – either ‘It’s Your World-Change It!’, ‘It’s Your Planet-Love It!’ or ‘It’s Your Story-Tell It!’ – girls must identify an issue they care about, explore their community, pick a Take Action project, and put it into motion. The suggested minimum time for earning the Girl Scout Silver Award is 50 hours.

About the Young Women of Distinction Awards

Our fourth annual Young Women of Distinction Awards will be presented to three Gold Award recipients whose Gold Award projects demonstrated a clear vision, resolve and commitment to make the world a better place. Not an easy task for the Higher Awards Committee – with 26 truly impressive Gold Award project in this year’s class. The top recipient will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and two runners-up will each receive a \$500 scholarship.





WELCOME



We extend a warm welcome to this year's Girl Scout Gold and Silver Award recipients, their families and friends, and other higher award alumnae in attendance today. We are also honored to have the hard-working members of the Higher Awards Committee in attendance, as well as many dignitaries, board members and other friends of Girl Scouting.

Each member of this year's Gold Award class spent at least ninety hours working on her Gold Award project. Projects included producing a film to explain the experiences of children in the foster care system, teaching art and poetry lessons and creating cards to distribute to patients at a local hospital, and planting and harvesting a vegetable garden at a high school to introduce students to healthier food options. In addition to working with dedicated leaders and mentors, girls formed partnerships with several community organizations, including local YMCAs, libraries, and churches, Rhode Island Hospital, Norman Bird Sanctuary, East Providence Boys and Girls Club, Melville Park Committee, Diamond Hill Park, Purrfect Cat Shelter, and Bristol's Animal Shelter.

While some of the young women we are honoring today are attending college now, or will be pursuing higher education in the fall, they have all created projects that will have a lasting impact in their communities.

We also give a special salute to this year's Girl Scout Silver Award recipients, and trust that you will be inspired by your older sister Girl Scouts!

Congratulations to all of you!





EVENT AGENDA



- ▶ Introduction of Special Guests ◀
 - ▶ Welcome ◀
- ▶ Acknowledgment of Silver Award Recipients ◀
- ▶ Procession of the 2015 Class of Gold Award Recipients ◀
 - ▶ Young Women of Distinction Awards ◀
 - ▶ Closing ◀
 - ▶ Group Photos ◀

Recipients of the 2015 Gold Award and Former Recipients of the Gold Award, Golden Eaglet, Curved Bar, or First Class Awards as well as Silver Award Recipients

GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS



India Aitkenhead Troop #113, Wakefield, RI GOING GLUTEN FREE

My project addressed the issue of Celiac disease, and benefitted the many people in the community who are struggling with the involuntary restriction of gluten from their diets. I addressed this issue by creating one workshop, a brochure, and three presentations on Celiac disease and gluten free lifestyles. My goal was also to educate the public about the fact that just because a product says it is “gluten free” doesn’t make it a healthy choice.

The workshop and presentations were held at Food for Thought in Wakefield, at AAA for employees, and at the South Kingstown YMCA for recovering cancer patients in the Livestrong program. I provided a cooking demonstration, provided samples of homemade gluten free foods, and distributed the brochure. The most successful part of my project was the brochure I created because people were able to take it home, learn how to make their favorite recipes gluten free, and pass it on to others.



GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

Girl Scout member for 12 years. South Kingstown High School, 2015. I will be attending Northeastern University majoring in Biological Engineering.

Thank you to Pam Rand, my fantastic Gold Award advisor, for inspiring me with her endless enthusiasm. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to Lisa Herbert and Leslie Deering, my two fantastic and encouraging troop leaders. Finally, thank you to my mother, father, and sister for both inspiring and supporting my Going Gluten Free project.



Sabrina Barandiaran Troop #725, Portsmouth, RI SURVEYING MELVILLE PARK

The goal of my Gold Award project was to create a booklet with maps and information about plants growing at Melville Park in Portsmouth. After a forest fire a few years ago, a lot of plants and older trees were wiped out.

I photographed, researched and documented 17 trees and 20 plant varieties. I then designed a detailed and in-depth booklet that includes information about both native and invasive species. After several edits and revisions, I presented to the booklet to the Melville Park Committee. The Committee has shared it on their website and has distributed the booklets to the library and local schools to use as a teaching device. My project helps to raise awareness about the park, and educates people who visit about what is in the forest.

Girl Scout member for 12 years. Portsmouth High School, 2015. I will be attending Hofstra University as a Business Management major.

Thank you to Mr. Rizy and the Melville Park Committee for helping me so much with my project!



Elizabeth Batty Troop #529, Smithfield, RI COMMUNITY IN BLOOM

My project addressed the issue of vandalism by replacing a large area of graffiti with a hand-painted mural and helped to stop visual pollution by teaching children.

After using a lot of soap and water to scrub graffiti off two outdoor walls at "Wood Items and More" in Greenville, I painted a mural of sunflowers. I also created a program, including a PowerPoint presentation and activities, at two town libraries to teach elementary-aged children about



GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

the problem of vandalism and how to combat the problem as they grow older. Scrapbooks, articles, and a link to a jeopardy style game are available in the libraries.

The most successful aspect of my project was how I transformed a symbol of disrespect, a wall covered in graffiti, into a beautiful mural that the community can admire.

Girl Scout member for 13 years. Smithfield High School, 2015. I will be attending the University of Albany, majoring in psychology with a minor in Spanish.

I would like to thank my family, my troop leaders, and my project advisor, Maureen Van Herpe, for helping me along the way!

Eleanor Bodell-Kudla Troop #241, East Greenwich, RI HEALTHY BODY, HEALTHY MIND, HEALTHY YOU!

Inspired to recreate the Dove Movement for Self Esteem on a local scale, I created a guide for teens and a program about healthy living that was implemented at the Bayside YMCA in Barrington, RI. I researched several topics and created a guidebook that outlined health struggles teens face today including nutrition, exercise, body image, eating disorders, and drugs and alcohol. I wrote a chapter about each issue that included a thorough discussion of the problem and provided resources and solutions for teenagers to live healthier lives.

The most successful aspect of my project was the amount of information in the guidebook, which I was able to include by implementing research into my writing. From this project, I learned how to become better at time management and communication skills.

Girl Scout member for 13 years. I am attending the University of Vermont, majoring in English and minoring in Spanish.

Special thanks to my mother, who kept me motivated over the years and encouraged me to always do my best work.



Kristin Lee Brzozowy Troop #926, Bristol, RI TALENT FOR PAWS

The local Bristol animal shelter is running a capital campaign to expand



GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

the shelter so I created an awareness campaign. My project also addressed the importance of neutering and spaying pets.

I organized and directed a talent show and collected donated items for the shelter. I also created a brochure with information on the importance of neutering and spaying pets and on adopting pets from local animal shelters. I distributed it at the talent show and to local businesses.

The most successful aspect of my project was the talent show. Attendees were able to view a display of the shelter's adoptable pets and visit with a reception team, including employees from the shelter.

Girl Scout member for 14 years. I am a freshman at Plymouth State University, majoring in music. I will be transferring to URI in the fall.

I would like to give special thanks to Dyanne Gibree, my project advisor, for helping me with my project. I am very grateful!



Casie Castello Troop #426, Barrington, RI

HEARTFELT HATS

In many less fortunate countries, hospitals do not provide sufficient care to newborn infants. In order to increase the survival rate of these infants, hats are necessary to provide warmth.

I taught over 80 adults and children in my community how to knit hats on circle looms. After making individuals aware of the necessity of these hats, I began to create knitting groups with several organizations including summer camps, individuals from a local church, and a local senior living home. I also taught several groups of friends and family the art of loom knitting. I donated over 250 hats to an organization called Baragwanath Blessings, which distributes them to over 26 countries in need across the globe.

The most successful aspect of my project was helping to save the lives of infants. My project also helped to raise awareness regarding Baragwanath Blessing's need for assistance.

Girl Scout member for 12 years. Barrington High School, 2016.

I would like to give a special thank you to my Mom for always supporting me and pushing me to do my best. I would also like to thank Mrs. Harff for making sure I was always on track, and motivating me to work my hardest to reach my full potential.



GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

Laura Culligan Troop #426, Barrington, RI

A VETERAN'S VIEW

A Veteran's View was a documentary project where I interviewed veterans of various ages about their time before, during, and after their time in the service. Once all the video interviews were compiled, I learned to edit the movie.

My project addressed the lack of respect and knowledge of veterans that many people have and gives awareness of the sacrifices military personnel make to fight for our country. From watching the movie, people will learn how hard it is to leave family and friends for long, dangerous stretches of time. This documentary will be permanently available in the Barrington Public School Library System and on Youtube.

The most successful part of my project was being able to teach people, through a video, what life as a veteran is like. I also feel that the interviews were very successful because they gave people a chance to share what they rarely talk about.

Barrington High School, 2015.



Emily Deslauriers Troop #426, Barrington, RI

TENNIS FOR LIFE

The issue my project addressed was that underprivileged children often lack the necessary resources in order to participate in opportunities. I addressed this by providing children at the East Providence Boys and Girls Club with racquets, balls, nets, and the necessary knowledge needed to play tennis.

I taught lessons once a week, focused on backhand, forehand, serve, and volleys. Typical lessons included doing a warm up, learning and practicing strokes, and playing a game. I also created a program guide for other tennis instructors to use, and a website, www.gotennisforlife.weebly.com, which includes pictures, a video and a blog. I updated the blog each week to keep parents informed about the lessons.

The most successful aspect of my project that I found was that the children had fun while they had their lessons and they really enjoyed playing tennis and being active.

Girl Scout member for 12 years. Barrington High School, 2016. I plan on



GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

studying neuroscience at a 4-year undergraduate school.

Special thanks to Mrs. Harff, my mom, and the Boys and Girls Club for helping me successfully complete my project!



Erin Devin Troop #87, Bristol, RI

HISTORY KIDS

A lot of kids do not realize how important history is, so I created educational sessions and an informative packet about the history of Linden Place in Bristol.

I researched information about Linden Place and the Colt and DeWolf families and put it in the guide with many pictures and fun facts to keep it interesting. I also made some historical games that were popular among kids over 100 years ago, and that kids today still have fun playing. By teaching kids the history of Linden Place, they now realize that historical events in Bristol affected not only the town and state, but the world, including the slave triangle and the industrial revolution.

The most successful part of my project was completing the guide and participating in the educational session. Linden Place now has a tool to use when kids visit and I was excited to see that the kids had a lot of fun using the guide during tours and playing the historical games.

St. Mary Academy Bay View, 2015. I will be attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute, majoring in engineering.

Special thanks to Mrs. Glanville, my first grade teacher and my project advisor, for giving me the guidance and support I needed to successfully complete my project!



Stephanie Dooley Troop #374, Cumberland, RI

THE GIVING GARDEN

I addressed the problem of students not knowing where their food comes from, and to introduce students to a healthier way of eating. I coordinated with faculty at Cumberland High School (CHS) to plant a vegetable garden in their school's courtyard.

I collaborated with the representatives from the Sodexo school lunch program to have vegetables incorporated in the CHS Nutrition Advisory for the students. Students prepared salsa and bruschetta and discussed the benefits of healthy food choices. The community also benefited



GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

because during the summer I harvested the vegetables and donated them to local food pantries.

The most successful part of my project was how much produce we were able to harvest to either donate or use in the school. Many people, including CHS students and alumni wanted to help and be involved.

Girl Scout member for 11 years. LaSalle Academy, 2015. I will be attending Salve Regina University majoring in nursing.

Thank you to my mentor, Holly Stowik, for her dedication, commitment, and knowledge that she provided throughout my project. Also, to the custodians at Cumberland High School for granting me access to the school building during the summer. Thank you to Mark Tucker and Emily Cormack from Cumberland High School's Sodexo School lunch program for working with me to incorporate the fresh produce into the nutrition program for the students.



Natalie Gambrell Troop #852, North Kingstown, RI

BASIL'S JOURNEY

My project addresses what happens when a child gets discouraged. Adults sometimes make remarks such as "I'll do it, you're too small" or "I'll fix that". While these remarks are not meant with malice, they often affect children's self-esteem.

Striving to lift children's spirits and help them realize they are special and have potential, I wrote and illustrated a book. The subject of the book is a small caterpillar trying to fly. It faces both discouraging remarks from an antagonistic ladybug, and encouragement from an older caterpillar. The book shows a progression from a dream to reality and serves as an example that children can learn from.

The most successful aspect of my project is that my book will be shared with students at a local elementary school and with patients in a therapist's office. The book will help students increase their self-esteem.

Girl Scout member for 11 years. I am a freshman at Roger Williams University, majoring in biochemistry and minoring in psychology.

I would like to thank Dana Gambrell, my wonderful mother, for all the support she has given me through out the project and all my years of scouting.



GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS



Allison Graves Troop #96, Warwick, RI

ALLERGY AWARENESS

Since there is limited information available to children about food allergies, I created an educational pamphlet, flyer and PowerPoint presentation to better educate students. I made presentations at elementary schools, to several Girl Scout Troops and to a Cub Scout Pack. The flyer included information about safe foods to have at birthday parties when there is a child with a peanut allergy present. During my presentation I used an example about how ice cream scoops can contaminate other cartons of ice cream, taught the children how to read a nutrition label, and provided epi-testers to practice with.

The most successful aspect of my project was that many students and teachers gained knowledge of how to use an epi-pen, which could mean saving the life of a fellow student, teacher, friend, or family member. By completing my Gold Award project, I learned how to revise my presentation to better educate the audience as I proceeded through my project and became a better public speaker.

Girl Scout for 12 years. I am freshman at Salve Regina University majoring in history, with plans to minor in the cultural and historical preservation program.

I'd like to thank my troop leader Darlene for helping me through the whole award process, and for being my voice of reason whenever I became overwhelmed. Thanks Darlene!



Elena Grigelevich Troop #1229, North Scituate, RI

THE ALI MINK MEMORIAL BUTTERFLY GARDEN

The project addressed two different issues: celebrating the life and memory of Ali Mink, and reconstructing an overgrown garden that had become an eyesore to visitors at Scituate High School.

Ali was a Girl Scout a year ahead of me; our troops met and completed badges together when we were younger. She was a student at Scituate High School who passed away due to brain cancer in 2012. I wanted to commemorate her beautiful memory in an equally beautiful place, by reconstructing an existing overgrown garden. I chose plants to attract butterflies and perennials that are sustainable. My classmates also helped to decorate stepping stones in the garden.



GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

The most successful aspect of my project is that the garden is a way for our community to remember the great times we had with Ali, so that her memory will always live on.

Girl Scout member for 12 years. I am a freshman at Bryant University, double majoring in finance and economics, and minoring in actuarial and statistics.

To my Mom, who encouraged and supported all the girls in Troop 1229 for the past twelve years. Thank You for starting the troop and sticking with ME to GOLD! Ali Mink, a fellow Girl Scout and inspiration. You will always be in our hearts!



Amy Harff Troop #426, Barrington, RI

THE ART OF GIVING

My project addressed the need for art and poetry related programs to help distract and entertain patients in Rhode Island Hospital. With the help from mentors I planned art and poetry lessons, learned teaching techniques and created presentations.

I selected several youth-serving organizations and shared my passion for art, poetry and learning with approximately 100 underprivileged children from around Rhode Island. I taught 15 art and 15 poetry classes to children ranging from age four to fourteen, providing them with a broader understanding of the different styles of poetry and art. I then paired ten poems with ten pieces of art and formatted cards. More than 300 patients received cards during the first week of distribution. For patients who were inspired, an invitation and instructions inside of the card will make it easy for them to engage in creating their own artwork and poetry during their healing process.

The most successful part of my project was working with the children. I loved teaching them new types of poetry and art, but what I was really teaching them was skill that they will never forget: self-confidence.

Girl Scout member for 12 years. The Wheeler School, 2016. I plan on studying business and studio art in college.

I would like to give special thanks to Paula Most and Nanci Adams, my project advisors, who taught me valuable lessons, believed in me and helped me to complete my project. I would also like to thank Robin Deslauriers and Judy Harff for their constant support through the Gold Award process.



GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS



Abigail Herbert Troop #113, Wakefield, RI

OLD MOUNTAIN FIELD KIOSK AND TRAIL MAP

Old Mountain Field is a very popular town park in the center of South Kingstown, but the trails that wind around a pond and through the woods behind it are not well known. I made a detailed map to help hikers and mountain bikers navigate the trails. I also built, with the help of my father, a kiosk to be used for my map and to be used for all other park activities. I chose the design, took detailed and careful measurements, came up with a list of materials and received donated supplies. We build a sturdy and attractive kiosk that stands eight feet tall and eight feet long and has a fully shingled roof.

I have been going to the park my whole life and I am so glad that my kiosk and map are there. The map will be used by many people, the use of trails will increase, and more people will appreciate Old Mountain Field.

Girl Scout member for 12 years. South Kingstown High School, 2015. I will be attending Curry College, majoring in psychology.

I would like to thank my dad who spent a lot of time helping me with the construction of my project. Also my mom for being a great leader for all these years.



Amelia Kracik Troop #725, Portsmouth, RI

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH CLASS COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP

Within the St. Barnabas religious education program, high school students are required to complete a certain number of community service hours to complete confirmation. From my experience, many students see community service as a chore. I addressed this issue by working with younger students who are more open to trying new things.

I worked with classes from varying age groups to introduce them to various community service opportunities within the church. Students were able to help their community and enjoy what they were doing. I wrote lesson plans for each activity and organized them in a binder.

The most successful aspect of this project was exposing a large amount of students to new activities. They now know where there are opportunities, who they can contact, and can make an impact.

Portsmouth High School, 2015.



GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS



Amanda Larsen Juliette, Portsmouth, RI

FROM TRASH TO TREASURE

The major issue my project addressed was increasing awareness about the importance of composting. I restored a compost at the Norman Bird Sanctuary with straw so that it would be usable again in educational programs for children and adults.

I also helped to clean up the Sanctuary's hoop house and made a new organization system by building a work table, hooks and pegboard. For the educational aspect of my project, I helped to make an outdoor classroom, created an informational poster, and presented the refurbished compost to the community during the Sanctuary's annual Harvest Fair.

The most successful aspect of my project was refurbishing the compost, since it will be extremely helpful for the sanctuary to use in demonstrations and for their garden.

Girl Scout member for 12 years. Portsmouth High School, 2016. I am planning on studying biomedical engineering in college.

A special thanks to my project advisor, Rachel Holbert, and the Norman Bird Sanctuary for all of the support throughout this project. Rachel worked with me as much as possible to make sure the project went smoothly. Also, another special thanks to my mom and dad who urged me to stay in Girl Scouts and complete this project.



Rachel Meilun Troop 852, North Kingstown, RI

OPERATION: CONCUSSION AWARENESS

For my project, I raised awareness about concussions within the North Kingstown community. I provided schools with information about concussions, what to do if one receives a concussion and how to have a full recovery, in the form of posters/fliers and age appropriate pamphlets. I created a self-baseline balance assessment that tests a person's physical balance, and my pamphlets that include the information will be distributed in local daycare centers.

I also led an interactive workshop given at the North Kingstown library. My presentation to the community members was the most inspiring aspect of my project because I spoke about a double concussion that I experienced.



GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

The most successful part of my project was creating printed information pamphlets for kids, teens, parents, and teachers. My pamphlets are easily reproducible and will be able to reach a large number of people.

Girl Scout member for 13 years. I am freshman at Ithaca College, studying biology and pre-med.

Special thanks to my project advisor Dr. John Sullivan for his expertise and knowledge in the area of concussions. Also a special thanks to my troop leader Ms. Eileen Pekar for her encouragement throughout my scouting years.



Alexandria Rita Murphy Troop #1163, Somerset, MA

G.I.R.L.S.: GALS IN REAL LIFE SUCCEED

The issue my project addressed was the lack of free, fun and educational workshops for today's young women. My project was a workshop-based take action project that allowed me to find problem areas of young women in my community and give them free solutions to said problems. These workshops were held at the Somerset Town Hall and Library and were led by experienced women, including myself, and focused on bringing out the best version of each young girl possible.

The workshops focused on things such as public speaking, personal presentation, vlogging (Youtube), blogging, hair and makeup, health and nutrition, and being confident in who you are. The most successful aspect of my project was the hair and makeup workshops, because it was allowing people to have fun, but still learn how to present themselves in a professional manner.

Girl Scout member for 13 years as a girl, and a lifetime member. I am a freshman at Worcester State University, majoring in communications with a concentration in news broadcasting and political analyst, and minors in French and Spanish.

I would like to thank my dad and mom for supporting and pushing me to complete this, and all of my leader Mrs. Harnett who has always been there over the years. Also a big thank you to my advisor Allie Curtis who taught me all she knows and allowed inspired this project.



GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS



Elizabeth R. M. Oakley Troop #507, Rehoboth, MA CHIMNEY SWIFT TOWER

For years, chimney swift birds have nested in the Carpenter Museum chimney. The museum made plans to cap the chimney, which would have prevented the swifts from getting in, having a good place to sleep and nest. I addressed this issue by building a tower.

The swifts needed to be able to fly straight down into the tower, so I built it with a square hole in top and eleven feet of vertical space. The inside of the tower is made of rough plywood with horizontal grooves, so that they swifts can grip with their claws and attach their nests to the side. This is the first chimney swift tower built in Rehoboth.

The most successful part of the project is that it completed its mission to provide alternative housing for the chimney swifts that would have otherwise been displaced.

Girl Scout member for 13 years. I am currently attending Colby College, where I have tentatively declared an Environmental Science major.

I want to thank my project advisor Bob Elliott for his knowledge of carpentry, Eugenia Marks for her bird expertise, and my family and friends and fellow troop-members for their encouragement and help in constructing the tower.



Suzanne Pekar Troop #852, North Kingstown, RI ALTAR SERVING: INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE AND TRAINING DVD

My gold award project was directing, editing and producing an Altar Serving DVD and a guide book for the altar servers at my parish, Saint Francis De Sales in North Kingstown. Altar serving is the act of assisting the Priest or Celebrant through the Mass, and when a person decides to altar serve, they need to learn how.

I held a training with three altar servers to review what they did throughout the mass and used the opportunity to take photos for the manual. I held two video shoots where I directed the altar servers and Priest through the Mass while filming. I edited the video which included writing a script and recording a voiceover. For the manual, I researched the order of a Catholic Mass and typed the altar servers' roles into each appropriate section.



GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

The most successful aspect of my project is when I showed the video to the parish priest, Rev. David Procaccini and the Altar Serving Coordinator, Susan Eaton. Their constructive criticism and positive feedback helped me realize that they really appreciated this project.

Girl Scout for 12 years. I am a freshman at Anna Maria College majoring in graphic design.

Special thanks to Sue Eaton and Fr. David Procaccini for giving me the guidance and support I needed to successfully complete my project. Thank you to my mom, Eileen Pekar for all of the hours spent planning the meetings, going on trips with the troop, and continually being supportive throughout my twelve years.



Sarah Robbins Troop #113, Wakefield, RI DON'T PART WITH THE ARTS!

This Gold Award project is meant to encourage more funds being allocated for the art programs at South Kingstown High School. To support the goal of showing the arts programs in high schools have beneficial effects on everyone involved, I collected the stories of South Kingstown High School students, graduates, and teachers, highlighting their experiences in the Art Departments.

I gave each person a set of personalized questions regarding what they gained from high school art programs and how they will use those skills in their futures. I then compiled the stories and created a website (skhsneedsart.tumblr.com) where I posted the stories and pictures.

The most successful aspect of my project was the emotional effects it has had on the viewers of the website. The page has gone viral locally, and was shared on many people's pages.

Girl Scout member for 9 years. South Kingstown High School, 2015. I will be attending Hofstra University, majoring in English with a concentration in publishing.

Thanks so much to my project advisor Mrs. Barbara Crudale and all my fellow artists for sharing their stories with me.



GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS



Mary Roche Troop #374, Franklin, MA

CAT TREES

Cats in shelters are often cooped up in cages for long periods of time, and get very little exercise and even less mental stimulation. These types of circumstances can lead to health issues and aggressive behavior in cats, making them less desirable candidates for adoption.

For my project, I learned basic and valuable construction skills, built two cat trees, and donated them to the Purr-fect Cat Shelter. I also planned and executed two workshops about basic building techniques and the use of common tools. During the first workshop, I worked with a group of younger girls, teaching them basic construction and hand and power tool safety. They were able to display these skills on birdhouses they constructed. A group of older girls in a second workshop worked together to construct a smaller version of the cat tree.

My project has two major successful aspects. The cats I've helped can now receive the exercise and mental stimulation they need to be happy and healthy, and therefore more likely to be adopted. The participants in my workshops learned a lot about how to safely use construction tools.

Girl Scout member for 13 years. Ursuline Academy, 2015. I will be attending the University of Connecticut and majoring in Pathobiology and Veterinary Sciences.

Special thanks to my mother for all her help and support throughout the Gold Award process and Mr. Joseph Abely for his assistance with the carpentry aspects of my project.



Leah Sirmalis Troop #426, Riverside, RI

LEAHSTAR (LEARNING, EXERCISE, AND HEALTHY STRATEGIES, TECHNIQUE AND RECREATION)

The issue my project addressed was that the East Providence Recreation Summer Camp needed a program to go along with a grant that they received. The program had to correspond with the theme "Maintaining Healthy Minds and Bodies."

I addressed this issue by developing a health and fitness program and taught it to the campers and counselors. My program focuses on how to eat right, be healthy and stay active while having fun through proper stretching, exercise and games. I talked to them about how important it



GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

is to stay hydrated. I also talked about nutrition and made a kid friendly recipe book to give to each camper.

The most successful aspect of my project is that I feel good knowing that I taught over 160 people that hydration, nutrition and staying active is an important part of their lives, so that they can live longer, be healthy, and happy.

Girl Scout for 12 years. St. Mary Academy Bay View, 2017. I am looking into studying engineering, physical therapy and psychology in college.

A big thanks to my Mom, who supported me through it all and taught me to never give up. If it wasn't for her, I don't think I would be where I am right now.



Alexis Tam Troop #374, Cumberland, RI BUTTERFLY GARDEN IN TOWN PARK

The issue that my project addressed is the lack of plants and wildlife within Diamond Hill Park in Cumberland. By planting and creating a butterfly garden, I created a new habitat within my community that can sustain butterflies and other flower pollinators and will provide aesthetic beauty.

I planted an assortment of flowers that not only attract butterflies but also enhance the park with beauty and life. I researched plants that are home to butterflies and received donations from local businesses. I had to decide the shape of the garden and how much dirt would need to be spread and dug up. Then I decided how I would place the flowers, arranging it so it would look pretty. Sitting benches were also constructed so that people relax alongside the garden.

The most successful aspect to my project is that I inspired Mike Crawley, Director of Cumberland Parks and Recreation, to not only continue my work, but to expand the garden so that it covers the entire front of the park.

Girl Scout member for 12 years. Cumberland High School, 2015. I will be attending Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences for their Pharmacy program.

I want to give a special thank you to my mother and brother for encouraging and supporting me through this project. I would not have been able to do it without them.



GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS



Vivian Tian Troop #426, Barrington, RI

FOSTERING UNDERSTANDING

My project addressed both the need for interest in becoming foster parents and the need for foster parents and peers to understand the experiences and struggles that children under foster care often face.

I created a short film called “Fostering Understanding” which details the life and thoughts of a fictional foster child. I began the filmmaking process by writing the screenplay for the film, including developing the characters and outlining the basic plot of the film. I held an audition and casted each actor into the role that I thought would be fitting for them. Filming occurred over four different days in several houses and a local restaurant. I produced the film by cutting each piece of footage to the appropriate length, editing scenes together, and creating voiceovers. I presented the film at two community events.

I believe the most successful aspect of my project was the filming process because I was able to both exercise my strengths and improve my weaknesses. I felt very encouraged by the support I received from my actors, and I was satisfied with my own performance as director as well.

Girl Scout member for 8 years. Barrington High School, 2016. I plan on attending a four-year university, majoring in computer science or engineering.

I want to give my profound thanks to my mentor, troop leaders, family, actors, and fellow Girl Scouts for their constant and invaluable guidance and encouragement throughout my entire project. I am humbled by the efforts they all have put forth in helping me, for a director is nothing without her crew. Ms. Corbett, Ms. Harff, Ms. Deslauriers, Mama, Baba, Amy, Emily, Casie, Troop 426 and all my actors – truly, I could not have completed my project without you!



SILVER AWARD



RECIPIENTS

Ashley Ackert
Troop #561, North Kingstown, RI

Ashley Anderson
Troop #426, Barrington, RI

Kelby Anderson
Troop #690, Wakefield, RI

Elizabeth Bickford
Troop #873, Attleboro, MA

Madelyne Bryant
Troop #999, Warren, RI

Rose Callanan
Troop #479, Providence, RI

Isabel Cano
Troop #873, Attleboro, MA

Ellie Chabot
Troop #476, Warren, RI

Marybeth Clarke
Troop #561, North Kingstown, RI

Cassandra DeBlois
Troop #561, North Kingstown, RI

Alexis Dess
Troop #198, Portsmouth, RI

Emily Dowding
Troop #594, East Greenwich, RI

Samantha Evans
Troop #500, Cranston, RI

Brianna Gendreau
Troop #377, Warren, RI

Megan Gimple
Troop #912, Pawcatuck, CT

Natalie Guertin
Troop #40, Blackstone, MA

Andrea Gustafson
Troop #297, Coventry, RI

Nicole Guzinski
Troop #40, Blackstone, MA

Lindsey Hands
Troop #426, Barrington, RI

Elizabeth Hanson
Troop #226, Wakefield, RI

Ashley Heald
Troop #999, Warren, RI

Hailey Hurrell
Troop #690, Wakefield, RI

Stephanie Kellerman
Troop #96, Warwick, RI

Sarah LeClair
Troop #690, Wakefield, RI

Amanda Lindley
Troop #873, Attleboro, MA

Jacqueline Lindstrom
Troop #690, Wakefield, RI

Annie Liu
Troop #277, East Greenwich, RI

Emma Johnson
Troop #1391, Rehobeth, MA

Isabella Marasco
Troop #277, East Greenwich, RI

Emily Marshall
Troop #240, Bristol, RI

Jayna Martel
Troop #287, Coventry, RI

Emily Mathews
Troop #297, Coventry, RI

Kathryn McIntosh
Troop #66, Cumberland, RI

Kylie McLaughlin
Troop #479, Pawtucket, RI

Caitlyn Moniz
Troop #999, Warren, RI

Riya More
Troop # 96, Coventry, RI

Colleen O'Brien
Troop # 873, Attleboro, MA

Gillian O'Brien
Troop # 873, Warren, RI

Camille Palm
Troop # 426, Barrington, RI

Samantha Proulx-Whitcomb
Troop # 240, Warren, RI

Anne Rogers
Troop #479, Rumford, RI

Caroline Rowe
Troop # 366, North Attleboro, MA

Lillian Scribner
Troop # 399, Lincoln, RI

Azka Siddiq
Troop #685, North Attleboro, MA

Una Treanor
Troop #226, Kingston, RI

Jillian Valente
Troop #277, East Greenwich, RI

Courtney Wegrzyn
Troop # 277, East Greenwich, RI

Sophie Wilhelm
Troop # 561, Saunderstown, RI

Sarah Zysk
Troop #366, North Attleboro, MA





SPECIAL THANKS



A special thanks to our volunteer videographer:

Bonnie Bryden

Bonnie began in Girl Scouting as a Brownie and continued all through high school, earning her Gold Award in 1999. That was an important accomplishment for her, one she will never forget. In addition to that achievement, the lessons she learned and the friendships she made while in Girl Scouting remain part of her life today. Bonnie earned her Bachelors Degree in TV production from Eastern Connecticut State University in 2003. While in college, Bonnie volunteered with the Girl Scouts of Connecticut, working with their Studio 2B program. In 2005, for her Masters Degree in journalism from Emerson College, Bonnie chose to do a mini documentary on Girl Scouts. She worked with the girls at Camp Cedar Hill in Massachusetts as well as the Eastern Massachusetts Girl Scout council to show how being in Girl Scouting can help prepare a girl to be a better leader in the future. She was proud to use this opportunity to bring more attention to the lifelong rewards of Girl Scouting.

Bonnie Bryden is currently employed at WPRI 12 in East Providence, RI. She has used her schooling to fill many jobs at the TV station including audio operator, videotape operator and studio camera/floor director. Her most recent position is working with The Rhode Show, Ch. 12's morning lifestyle show. Through this position, she has been able to reconnect with Girl Scouts of RI. Bonnie is proud to say she has come full circle with Girl Scouts, back to the days of the Gold Award. Again this year, she shot and edited the Gold Award videos for the Young Women of Distinction Award.

In her free time, Bonnie enjoys videotaping special events and being part of capturing people's memories on video. She also loves to dance and still takes weekly ballet lessons. And two things she still loves from Girl Scouts...cookies and camping. What better way to spend a warm summer night than eating Girl Scout cookies in a tent under the stars? Once a Girl Scout...always a Girl Scout!



SPECIAL THANKS



A special thanks to our master of ceremonies:

Kim Kalunian

Kim Kalunian is a Rhode Island native, professional performer, theater-lover and journalist. Kim is currently the afternoon news anchor on the state's leading news and talk station, 630 AM & 99.7 FM WPRO. Her talents as a reporter have won her a New England Newspaper & Press Association award, and earned 630WPRO.com the distinguished honor of being named the Associated Press' Best Website in 2013. When she's not behind the microphone, Kim can be found soaking up the state's rich arts and culture scene, whether she's reviewing a play or musical, or experiencing a new culinary delight at one of the state's renowned restaurants.

Before joining the WPRO News team, Kim worked professionally on the stage at local venues like Trinity Repertory, Theatre by the Sea, The Hanover Theatre, The Zeiterion Theatre and more. Her talents as a singer, dancer and actress have taken her from New Hampshire to Virginia, with frequent stops in Boston and New York. She is a proud member of the Actors' Equity Association, the professional union for stage actors. She was also crowned the 2014 Rhode Island Cherry Blossom Princess, and represented the Ocean State at the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. In her free time, Kim choreographs for youth theater productions, volunteers for the East Greenwich Animal Protection League and serves as a board member for the Miss Rhode Island America Organization.

Howard Russell Insurance



Protecting you,
your family,
and your business
since 1955

Home ■ Auto ■ Business ■ Life

*Congratulations to all the Gold and Silver Award recipients –
leaders for today and tomorrow!*



Rhode Island Insurance Group



HIGHER AWARDS COMMITTEE



We are grateful to the dedicated volunteers who make up the Higher Awards Committee (HAC):

- ▶ **Tricia Borgia, Bristol.** Tricia was involved with Girl Scouts as a girl member and has been an adult volunteer for seven years in a variety of capacities. She started as a cookie mom in her daughter's Daisy troop and moved on to become the troop leader. Tricia is currently a Service Unit Manager for the Bristol/Warren service unit, a member of the Volunteer Advisory Board, and a proud troop leader for a fantastic group of 6th grade Cadettes. This is Tricia's first year as a member of the HAC.
- ▶ **Tricia Driscoll, Barrington.** Tricia was a Girl Scout in North Kingstown, was a member of the GSRI staff for 5 years, and directed Camp Hoffman from 1995-1998, where she is currently the Sailing Director. Tricia is a lifetime member of Girl Scouts and has been a member of the HAC since 2010.
- ▶ **Carolyn Dyer, Narragansett.** Carolyn celebrated 40 years of Girl Scout membership in 2013, having been a girl member, a leader, a service team member and a trainer. Carolyn is an Outstanding Leader Award recipient, an Appreciation Pin recipient, and was the recipient of the Kit Hammett Award. Carolyn's served on the HAC for 9 years.
- ▶ **Claire Fabrizio, Cumberland.** Claire celebrated 46 years of Girl Scout membership this year. During those years, Claire was a troop leader, a camping consultant, a program aide trainer, and served on both the Council Nominating Committee and the Council Adult Recognitions Committee. Claire is a recipient of the Appreciation Pin and the Outstanding Volunteer Award and was appointed to the HAC in 1994.
- ▶ **Ann Ganley, Attleboro.** Ann was a troop leader for 7 years and served on the Attleboro Service Unit Team as the Camping Coordinator. She's been a trainer since 2007. She is also the co-founder coordinator for Attleboro GoeS, and outdoor adventure and travel group. She has been a member of the HAC since 2012.
- ▶ **Christine Stevens, North Kingstown.** Christine celebrates 25 years of Girl Scout membership this year, including 11 as a girl. She achieved First Class status as a Senior Girl Scout in Pittsburgh. As a troop leader in GSRI, she helped mentor several girls through their Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. She has been the Membership Coordinator for North Kingstown/Jamestown for 13 years, and has been an trainer for 9. Chris is a recipient of the Appreciation Pin and a member of the HAC since 2010.
- ▶ **Carole Ann Young, Pawtucket.** Carole reached 40 years of Girl Scout membership in 2009, having served as troop leader, service team manager, trainer, and Business Director and Camp Director at Camp Cookie. Carole has served on the council training committee, nominating committee, adult recognitions committee and volunteer management task force. Her awards are numerous: the Appreciation Pin, the Honor Pin, co-recipient of the Mira Hoffman Award, and most recently the Thanks Badge. She currently serves as the Service Unit Manager for Pawtucket, a Trainer and on the Training Committee. Carole's served on the HAC since 1997.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR CLIENTS



Girl Scouts of RI Corporate Headquarters, Warwick, RI

E W BURMAN
GENERAL CONTRACTORS

401.738.5400 33 VERMONT AVENUE, WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02882 www.ewburman.com



CAMERON & MITTLEMAN^{LLP}
Attorneys-at-Law



Proud to Support
Girl Scouts of
Southeastern New England

301 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02908
Phone 401.331.5700 | Fax 401.331.5787 | www.cm-law.com

We Proudly Support



girl scouts
of southeastern
new england



wavefcu.org
401-781-1020

A Better Place To Bank

Better Rates Fewer Fees Great Services

Faithfully serving the community for over 75 years.



Proud to support the Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England

Proudly supporting our
communities for a century



401.233.4700 • navigantcu.org



Beacon Mutual
is proud to support

Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England

Protecting your employees is one of the most
important decisions you make as a business owner.

Get started by contacting your
independent insurance agent today.



www.beaconmutual.com

Dave's

Fresh marketplace

★ Buy Fresh • Buy Local ★

DAVE'S IS FRESH. DAVE'S IS LOCAL.
DAVE'S IS RHODE ISLAND.



SUPPORT RHODE ISLAND



Visit one of our 9 locations today!

Coventry • Cumberland • East Greenwich
Little Smithfield • Smithfield Crossing • Quonset
Hoxsie • West Shore Road • Wickford



BUILDING
MORE THAN
BUILDINGS

WE ARE HONORED TO BE A
SPONSOR OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF
SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND'S
2015 GOLD AWARD CEREMONY

Gilbane

www.gilbaneco.com

7 Jackson Walkway | Providence, R.I. 02903 | 401-456-5800

Proud to Support


girl scouts
of southeastern
new england



Pawtucket
Credit Union

The smarter way to bank



INNOVEX™
Powerful Business Solutions

www.innovex.co | 401.232.7000

BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY • IT SOLUTIONS
DIGITAL MARKETING • DIGITAL SIGNAGE



You started together, you finished!
Congratulations on earning your Gold!



A big thank you to Mrs. Harff
and Mrs. Deslauriers! Love, Mrs. Sirmalis



Congratulations Leah!

Top Cookie Seller
Bronze, Silver &
Gold Award



You are our star!
We are so proud of
everything you do!

Love,
Mommy and Daddy

Stephanie Lynn Dooley (Troop #374)

Gold Award Recipient 2015

The Giving Garden

Congratulations and God Bless You
on earning the Girl Scout Gold Award.

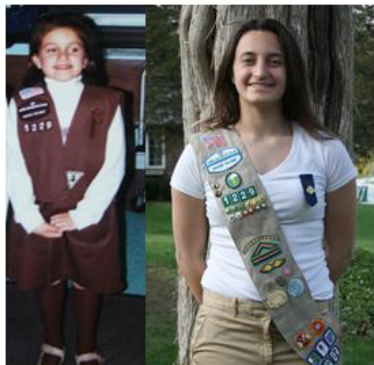
We are all so proud of you.

We love you so much!

Mom, Dad, and Joseph



Elena Grigevich,
Troop 1229 ~ Scituate
Bronze, Silver, and Gold
So proud you achieved your goals!



Honest, Fair, Friendly, Helpful, Considerate,
Caring, Courageous, Strong, Respectful,
Resourceful, a sister to every Scout!
You make the world a better place!

Much Love,

Mom, Dad, Sam ~

Mimi, Poppy Jim, Nonni, Poppy Ray, & Nonna

Congratulations Mary on earning the Gold Award!

Our deepest thanks to
Carmen Harten and Lyse Lepine
for 13 years of leadership.

John and Jean Roche





CONGRATULATIONS RACHEL!



We are so very proud of you.

Love,

Mom, Dad, and Kimberly



Congratulations Sarah on earning your Gold Award! We are so proud of you and all of your amazing accomplishments! With lots of love, Mom, Dad, Alexis and Corinne



*Amelia,
Congratulations
on receiving your
Gold Award!*

*We are very
proud of you!*

Dad, Mom and Colleen

Congratulations Amy!

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us..."

May your light continue to shine!

All our love,

*Dad, Mom, April &
Grammy*



Congratulations

Annie, Jillian, Courtney and Bella

on achieving the Silver Award!

-Troop #277



Congratulations,

Elizabeth

Oakley



Proud to support
Girl Scouts of Southeastern
New England



community

deep roots – strong bonds



AUTO HOME LIFE

866-51-Amica (26422)

Amica.com