



Girl Scout Highest Awards Ceremony 2024



June 2, 2024
Camp Hoffman
2850 Ministerial Road
West Kingston, RI 02892

Welcome!

Dear Girl Scouts, Parents, Guardians, and Esteemed Guests,

It is with immense pride and joy that I extend a warm welcome to our Girl Scouts Highest Award Ceremony. Today, we gather to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of our dedicated Girl Scouts who have gone above and beyond to earn the prestigious Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards.

To our Bronze Award recipients, your commitment to making a positive impact in your communities is inspiring. Your projects have demonstrated creativity and teamwork! Keep going—next stop—Silver and Gold Awards!

To our Silver Award recipients, your determination and passion for creating meaningful change have shone brightly throughout your journey. Your projects have addressed issues in our community and have left a lasting legacy for future generations of Girl Scouts to follow.

And to our Gold Award recipients, you have exemplified the highest standards of leadership, excellence, and service. Your projects have tackled complex challenges with creativity, innovation, and compassion, leaving an indelible mark on your communities and beyond.

Today's program is incredibly telling—and timely. Our Girl Scouts have identified issues in our community that track to staggering research on girls today—a world where mental health is a headline, technology has taken control of all parts of childhood, and parenting is generally... terrifying. Community connective tissue is thread-bare. And more than ever, there is a stark difference in the world of girls based on family income.

As you will learn through today's program, our Girl Scouts are an antidote to today's pressures and issues.

On behalf of GSSNE and the entire Girl Scout community, we congratulate each of the Gold, Silver and Bronze Awardees. May you continue to epitomize the Girl Scout mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character throughout your future endeavors. The future is bright with our leaders out front!

Yours in Girl Scouting,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. Borrelli-Murray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "D" and "B".

Dana Borrelli-Murray
Chief Executive Officer



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.

*Members may substitute for the word God in accordance with their own spiritual beliefs.

Special Thanks

Daniela Fairchild - Emcee



Daniela serves as the Chief Strategy Officer for the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation. Daniela brings a robust set of professional experiences to her role, overseeing organizational-strategy creation and deployment, government systems innovation, and leadership development. Her background is in the education, nonprofit, and government sectors. Most recently, Daniela served as the Director of the Rhode Island Office of Innovation. She also developed advocacy campaigns and organizational strategy for RI-CAN, managed internal capacity building at 50CAN, guided policy research at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, and ran program evaluation for Africare. Daniela started her career as a high school special education teacher and enjoyed serving as an urban high school rowing coach for six years—as well as Girl Scout Troop Leader (#1103) for two years. Daniela is a Girl Scout Gold Award recipient and holds a BA from Tufts University in International Relations and an MSEd from the University of Pennsylvania in International Educational Development.

Helena Foulkes - Keynote Speaker



Helena Foulkes is an experienced CEO and senior executive with a track record of delivering results by building high performance teams, innovative consumer-driven launches, and digital transformation. She is known as a purpose-driven leader who has made significant impacts on organizations and industries. Helena was the President of CVS Pharmacy, where she led many groundbreaking innovations, including the elimination of tobacco in its 8000 stores, and she led a successful turnaround of Hudson's Bay Company, an international retailer. Foulkes serves on the boards of Skillsoft, Harry's Inc., and mPharma. She is a member of the CEO Advisory Council for Salesforce. She has also served on the boards of The Wallace Foundation, The National Bureau of Economic Research, the National Boys and Girls Clubs, and the Dodd Center for Human Rights at the University of Connecticut. She most recently sought the Democratic nomination for governor of Rhode Island.

Special Thanks

The Highest Awards Committee:

Carolyn Dyer
Julianne Fontana
Therese Hem
Michelle Jessop
Colleen McBride
Christine Stevens

GSSNE thanks you for your continued commitment to the Highest Awards process and for your dedication to Girl Scouts!



2024 Highest Awards Ceremony

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Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England

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Empathy is our best policy

Program of Events

Welcome & Special Guest Recognition

Pledge of Allegiance, Girl Scout Promise & Law

CEO Speech, Dana Borrelli-Murray

Acknowledgment of Bronze Award Girl Scouts

Acknowledgment & Pinning of Silver Award Girl Scouts

Keynote Speech, Helena Foulkes

Presentation & Pinning of Gold Award Girl Scouts

Young Woman of Distinction Award

Closing & Photos*

*2024 Gold Award Girl Scouts and former recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award, Golden Eagle of Merit, Golden Eaglet, Curved Bar Award, or First Class Award, along with Silver & Bronze Award Girl Scouts are asked to join us for a brief photo opportunity.

Thank you for attending the 2024 Girl Scout Highest Awards Ceremony, we hope you enjoy this very special event!

We would like to thank our sponsors, Board of Directors, volunteers, staff, and the Highest Awards Committee for their support. Congratulations to our Gold, Silver, and Bronze Award Girl Scouts, and to their teams of parents, families, friends, siblings, leaders, peers, and teachers—thank you for all you do!



About the Girl Scout Bronze Award

The Girl Scout Bronze Award is the highest award a Girl Scout Junior in grades 4-5 can earn. When Girl Scouts work toward earning their Girl Scout Bronze Award, they uncover the important lessons in what it takes to leave a meaningful legacy in their community. After completing a Junior-level Girl Scout Journey, Girl Scouts are encouraged to identify issues they care about and explore the needs of their surrounding communities. The Girl Scout Junior builds a team with fellow Junior Girl Scouts (or chooses to go solo!) to develop a plan and complete a Take Action Project of 20 or more hours to earn the Girl Scout Bronze Award.



About the Girl Scout Silver Award

The Girl Scout Silver Award—the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette in grades 6-8 can earn—gives Girl Scouts the chance to show they are a leader who is organized, determined, and dedicated to improving their community. After completing one Cadette Journey, Girl Scouts must identify an issue they care about, explore their community, create a Take Action Project, and put it into motion. The minimum time for earning the Girl Scout Silver Award is 50 project hours.



About the Girl Scout Gold Award

The Girl Scout Gold Award—the highest award in Girl Scouting—has evolved from a long line of Girl Scout leadership awards which recognizes older Girl Scouts 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, 1963-1980).

Approximately one million Girl Scouts have earned the Gold Award or its equivalent since 1916. Currently, an estimated five percent of Girl Scouts in grade 9-12 earn the Gold Award annually. The Girl Scout Gold Award recognizes the work of Girl Scouts who demonstrate leadership, culminating in 80 hours or more dedicated toward a Take Action Project that has a sustainable impact in the community.



About the Young Woman of Distinction Award

Our annual local Young Woman of Distinction Award will be presented to a Gold Award Girl Scout whose Gold Award project demonstrated a clear vision, resolve, and commitment to making the world a better place. The Young Woman of Distinction will receive a scholarship from Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England.

Bronze Award Girl Scouts



Troop 309, Richmond, RI

Let's Color

Emily Clarke, Paige D'Amico, Sydney Jordan, Emily Lafountain, Emily Nunn, Emma Spakowski, Emma Tutko, Celia Usmar

Troop 707, Seekonk, MA

Dog Safety

Madalyn Aldrich

Troop 310, Cumberland, RI

Composting

Amirah Baza, Julia Cotter, Kayla Grenon, Amiah Holway, Elena Merksamer, Phoenix Ogle, Astaria Perron, Vivian Socci

Troop 293, Warwick, RI

Warwick Animal Shelter Advocates

Saydee Bence, Phoebe Cianci, Emery Eaton, Olyvia Giles, Karina Koopman, Avery Lourenco, Adelynn Yates, Grace Yates, Josephine Zielinski

Troop 79, Warwick, RI

Little Free Library Conimicut Warwick

Ashley Dowding, Olivia Foytho, Jessica Jardin, Alma Larkin, Makayla Selwyn, Arianna Soeurt

Troop 603, North Kingstown, RI

Bronze Award Project

Jovie Bell, Mazie Bell, Norah Benedict, Noelle Francis, Sammi Harding, Caileen Hughes, Stella Marcotte, Raelyn Wierschalek

Troop 540, Westport, MA

Troop 1100, Little Compton, RI

Kids Care Bags for Hasbro Children's Hospital

Juliette Dallacosta, Kylie Harvey, Charlotte Macy, Elizabeth Martin, Katelyn Nadeau, Avary Rocha

Bronze Award Girl Scouts



Troop 19, North Attleboro, MA

Food Insecurity & Community Share Bags

Abygail Bouthillier, Brooke Cavalieri, Ashlyn Conlon,
Ailyn Eggleston, Adelaide Martinka, Aniyah Tores

Troop 79, Warwick, RI

Positive Mindset Workshop

Jocelyn Anderson, McKenna Frappier, Olivia Froman,
Cecelia Garcia, Aundrea Gemma, Paige Murphy

Troop 429, Coventry, RI

Calm Down Kits

Courtney Boulanger, Sarah Boulanger, Kally Chittim,
Elizabeth Clark, Brynn Conners, Jada Duran, Aurora
Erwin, Charlotte List, Saidey Mossman, Chloe Tobin

Troop 43, Warwick, RI

Little Free Library at Kerri Lyn Road Playground

Elanor Crichton, Kaley Miceli, Aila Morales

Troop 178, Providence, RI

Childhood Cancer Awareness

Bevan Dunnigan, Katherine Joanides,
Lorelai McParland, Avery Nettles

Silver Award Girl Scouts



Isabella Ahlijanian
Troop 217, Exeter, RI
*The Basics of Being an
Equestrian Patch Program for
Cadettes & Older*

Alana Bellavance
Troop 4984, Attleboro, MA
Softball Dugouts

Jayonna Bevilacqua
Troop 518, Hope Valley, RI
Protect our Local Rivers

Noelle Blais
Troop 494, Rehoboth, MA
Rehoboth Pet Pantry

Tarynn Blais
Troop 382, North Smithfield, RI
Sewing for Furry Friends

Charlotte Carberry
Troop 217, Exeter, RI
*The Basics of Being an
Equestrian Patch Program for
Cadettes & Older*

Kaitlyn Christiansen
Troop 890, Attleboro, RI
Softball Dugouts

Victoria Cifuentes
Troop 923, Pawtucket, RI
The Art of Kindness

Noelle Crossett
Troop 923, Pawtucket, RI
The Art of Kindness

Cassandra Fisante
Troop 4984, Attleboro, MA
Comfort Pillows

Jacqueline Fisante
Troop 4984, Attleboro, MA
Softball Dugouts

Samantha Fisante
Troop 4984, Attleboro, MA
Softball Dugouts

Hannah Fyke
Troop 104, Pawcatuck, CT
Teen Beach Book Club

Jaeden Grzybowski
Troop 217, Exeter, RI
RI Military Teen Group

Jessleanna LeComte-DaQuay
Troop 745, Portsmouth, RI
Helping Paws

Blakeley Macera
Troop 713, Exeter, RI
Helping Hands

Silver Award Girl Scouts



Kaitlin Manion
Troop 141, Lincoln, RI
Crocheted Friends

Elizabeth Martin
Troop 25, West Warwick, RI
*Helping Special Education
Students with Sensory Boards*

October Rafuse
Troop 923, Pawtucket, RI
The Art of Kindness

Melanie Rawley
Troop 923, Pawtucket, RI
The Art of Kindness

Sarah Stuart
Troop 431, South Kingstown, RI
Blankets and Bags for Kids

Mikayla Whitehead
Troop 4984, Attleboro, MA
Comfort Pillows

Gold Award Girl Scouts



Aoife Molly Blais

Smithfield, RI

Read, Share, and Read Some More!

What is your project about?

For my Gold Award project, I built and maintained a Little Free Library for my church so that parish and community members would have a place to share inspirational books. I also led weekly children's liturgies, during which I read to children, prepared and guided them in craft activities, and talked with children about how to be kind. In addition to giving books a second life and keeping them out of the landfill, this project helped me build community within the church and town as well as helping children feel more part of the church and the religious services.

What is your favorite aspect of being a Girl Scout?

My favorite aspect of being a Girl Scout is being part of a world-wide community of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides. I've enjoyed learning new things, working on badges, helping others, and giving back through service projects.



Katelyn Cadmus

Pawcatuck, CT

Together We Play

What is your project about?

For my project I organized a four week basketball program for elementary school girls in Stonington CT where they are mentored by middle and high school basketball players.

Why was your project important to you?

As a basketball player at Stonington High School, I was disappointed to hear that the town cancelled the girls youth basketball program in 2022-2023. It is important that youth programs are available to young girls to support their skill development and love for the game.



Caitlyn Faubert
Westerly, RI
Cultural Cookbook

What is your project about?

I researched countries around the world to find different recipes from various ethnic backgrounds. After that I made each of these recipes myself. I then created a cookbook with all the recipes and pictures of each one. Included in the book are also some fun facts about different countries and the type of food they enjoy. Another special feature of this book is that it is an alphabetical cookbook, each recipe starting with a new letter. Each different letter is also from a different country. This had a huge impact on my life because it showed me how various countries cook and use foods in different ways than we do. It makes me appreciate all countries for their unique cuisines even more.

Why was your project important to you?

This project was important to me because when I was little I loved cooking. Although it was very limited because I did not know many recipes. After doing this project it helped me realize there is so much more than just recipes in the US. A lot of the recipes I included in the cookbook I enjoyed very much and still make to this day. It helped me get out of my comfort zone and try something new.



Zoe Gorman
Warren, RI
Crafting for Comfort

What is your project about?

For my project, I crafted 50 pillows and donated them to Meeting Street School for their students with special needs. I made a YouTube video teaching how to make the pillows, in addition to a workshop I held at a local library. The students of Meeting Street School can hug the pillows for comfort, or use them to improve positioning while seated and relieve pain.

Why was your project important to you?

This project is important to me because I grew up with a brother with special needs who attended Meeting Street School. Sometimes he would come home with homemade gifts from other students. While he didn't understand them, we appreciated them as his family and would often put them to use. I always knew I wanted my Gold Award project to be something that would improve the lives of people like him. A year before starting my project, my brother passed away. That made me even more inclined to make my project related to him. With all the pillows, I included a card with his picture. The school first gave the pillows to his classmates. Something that really helped me see the emotional impact of my project was a thank-you card from the teachers and students that included photos of my brother's classmates happily holding their pillows.



Daphne Higginbottom
North Kingstown, RI
Healthier Animals

What is your project about?

I organized an annual agility course to advocate for animal health. My goal was to educate pet owners about easy ways to get their animals more exercise at their homes.

What is your favorite aspect of being a Girl Scout?

The endless opportunities that Girl Scouts has shown me. Girl Scouts has helped me grow as a person through the many adventures I have had the privilege to attend. I have been involved in Girl Scouts since I was in kindergarten and it has been a huge part of my life ever since. Growing up while being in this organization, I not only was able to learn and connect with the world around me, but I was also able to create lifelong friendships. Throughout my fourteen years as a Girl Scout, I have earned my Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award as well as gone on a trip to London, England where I learned a lot about independence and money management.



Kaylee Lachapelle
Troop 1042, Somerset, MA
Equipment Exchange Program

What is your project about?

I started a cleat exchange program for our local community soccer league known as Somerset Swansea Youth Soccer League. I received donations of gently used cleats and shin guards, cleaned and disinfected them, and then held events for people to come and be fitted and take them for free. This has been so well received by our community that we were able to collect over 100 pairs of cleats my second year running it, and we have fitted over 70 children of all ages. The program has continued with a parent volunteer and continues to thrive.

Why was your project important to you?

My project was important to me because while I was refereeing at a game there was a child without the proper equipment due to having recently grown out of his cleat mid-season. My project made sure this will no longer be an issue for any family in my community and no child will be left off the pitch.



Gabrielle LeBlanc
Rehoboth, MA

Bat Houses

What is your project about?

I constructed 7 wooden bat houses that provide a safe habitat for my local bat species. These shelters will help to give bats a safe place to live and hopefully allow them to increase their population. My houses were donated to the Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island and placed in trees in the woods. The houses were coated with weather-resistant stain to preserve them, and should provide many years of use to successive generations of bats.

Why was your project important to you?

This project was important to me because I have always enjoyed the field of Environmental Science. I have explored many facets of Natural Science in my badges, schoolwork, and independent study. I hope to continue studying this area of Science in college, where I hope to major in Marine Biology. I knew that our local bat species were approaching critical population levels, and humans were experiencing increased amounts of pests. The negative balance of pests to bats caused increased pesticide use which is harmful to the environment and humans alike. Moreover, these chemicals also killed many bees.



Emma Francis Marvelli
Barrington, RI

Coach Robert Gourley Advocacy Campaign and Hammer Throwing Awareness

What is your project about?

My Gold Award project aimed to show the importance of hammer throwing at my high school and across the country. I spoke publicly about the sport and my coach, Coach Gourley, who recently passed away. He had been the sole contributor to the throwing budget at my school for over 10 years. Through my public speaking about Coach Gourley's legacy and creating awareness, people donated to my school's athletic program. We were able to raise over \$7,000 which was used to buy an implement shed, implements, and a dedication bench that is soon to be installed.

How will being a Gold Award Girl Scout effect the rest of your life?

Now that it is April of 2024, almost 10 months after my final report was accepted by Girl Scouts, I have had a lot of time to reflect on how my project has impacted my life. For starters, I am a student at Washington and Lee University which is one of the most difficult institutions in the United States to get admitted to and succeed at. I attribute this accomplishment to my Gold Award project and the 13 years of my life dedicated to Girl Scouting. When applying to this University, I was told that being a Girl Scout of this level revealed a lot of other attributes about myself. This is because of the lessons that Girl Scouts learn through community service, outreach, cookie/nut sales, budgeting, and more. Especially with my Gold Award, I gained problem-solving skills and leadership skills that I would not have learned otherwise.



Caroline McGlynn

Wakefield, RI

Bat Houses

What is your project about?

For my Gold Award, I chose to build 6 bat houses for my community and Camp Hoffman. These bat houses give bats a safe and clean place to live, keeping them out of houses, and safe from White Nose Syndrome, a fungus that is rapidly moving across North America, and killing thousands of bats.

How will being a Gold Award Girl Scout effect the rest of your life?

I have been a Girl Scout in Troop 269 since I was in Kindergarten and I am a Girl Scout for life. Being a Girl Scout has given me amazing opportunities to help people and make a difference in my community, it has also given me a chance to befriend so many like-minded women. Girl Scouts is one of my longest commitments and I have loved every minute of it. Every project, every cookie sale, every meeting. I have learned so much through Girl Scouts, I have learned how to be a leader, and how to manage time, and I have learned how to be compassionate and courageous. Being part of Girl Scouts has shaped me into who I am today, and will continue to affect me for the rest of my life.



Amy Papa

North Scituate, RI

Giving with Gardens

What is your project about?

In the hope of reconnecting with my community, I sought to give back to some seniors with help from others in my community. I decided to address this issue by connecting different ages with meaningful contact-free gifts. And so I ultimately decided that I would gift flower-card bundles by first planting a flower garden with young adults from my school and making cards with children so that the gifts reached a larger demographic in my community. Before I knew it, I was planting hundreds of seeds and spending hours in various libraries helping kids with their artwork. When enough flowers and cards were gathered, they were divided up and bundled together to be delivered to various seniors in my community. I spent two separate days delivering the flowers to the various homes, and the surplus was given to the Scituate Senior Center.

Why was your project important to you?

My project was important to me because it combated an issue of community disconnection that many often disregard as an important issue. Especially due to the COVID pandemic, the connection between ages in communities has been hindered for the safety of those medically compromised. I think people often have a misconstrued view of how large an impact has to be to be important. But the truth is, even the smallest change in someone's life can remind them of their importance and how they can make a difference too. The way a small gift was able to create smiles in the givers and recipients just goes to show how something does not need to be life-changing to be valuable. I think a mission that values connecting a community is just as valuable as any other. I hope that sharing my journey with this project will inspire others to also reach out to their community and create connections just as I did. Overall, my project is important to me because it highlights the importance of community connection and the appreciation of broadening community involvement and connections, even when doing so safely and contact-free!



Simone Punchak

Providence, RI

Spreading Mental Health Awareness through Posters

What is your project about?

After recognizing the drastic effects COVID-19 had on youth mental health, I decided to take action. I had observed that many students were struggling, but unwilling to seek aid. This left students in need of assistance with no one to turn to and no resources to help them. I addressed this issue by creating mental health posters and a website. The posters touch on a variety of topics: addressing an addiction to vaping, spotting the signs of depression, coping in an anxiety attack, talking about body image and eating disorders, wellness ideas, encouragement regarding opening up about experiences, and more. Along with the website and posters, I created affirmations. These affirmations have "I" statement phrases on them, as well as motivational messages. Rather than struggling alone, they can look to one of the posters to help guide them.

How will being a Gold Award Girl Scout effect the rest of your life?

Being a Girl Scout has taught me to have confidence in my capabilities. Growing up, girls faced constant comparisons to boys in derogatory terms: "you run like a girl," "you hit like a girl," "girls aren't strong enough." These attitudes, reinforced by society's portrayal of women, left me questioning my capabilities. Rarely did books feature female CEOs or presidents, and superheroes were primarily men. In a world where a little girl is bound to question whether or not she is capable, it's hard to not doubt one's self. Before the influence was detrimental to my self-image, I joined Girl Scouts. Girl Scouts gave me experiences that provided me with the evidence to prove that I was capable of what a boy could do. I had gone camping, learned how to start a fire, knew first aid, done archery—all before middle school. Being supported by a community dedicated to empowering girls has allowed me to dare to dream of becoming someone in power; that contribution to my self-image is an aspect of being a Girl Scout I greatly admire



Lily Stuart

East Greenwich, RI

Epilepsy Education

What is your project about?

I created an online website and forum to educate and inform anyone and everyone on epilepsy and what to do if someone has an epileptic seizure. This was inspired by my brother who was born with epilepsy, and I realized that not many people know what to do if someone has a seizure.

What is your favorite aspect of being a Girl Scout?

My favorite part of being a Girl Scout is the community. I've been a Girl Scout since I was seven years old (a Daisy) and it has been one of the only consistent things in my life, a true constant.

Join Alum Troop 1919!



Learn more at
gssne.org/alum

Thank You!



500 Greenwich Ave
Warwick, RI 02886
401.331.4500
gssne.org