



Girl Scout Highest Awards Ceremony 2025

June 1, 2025 Camp Hoffman 2850 Ministerial Road West Kingston, RI 02892

Welcome!

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the 2025 Highest Awards Ceremony! Today, we gather to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of our Girl Scouts who have gone above and beyond to earn nationally recognized levels of work and dedication based on service.

There is a strategy underway at Girl Scouts to expand the ways youth experience Girl Scouting to ensure our Movement is open and inclusive, meeting the needs of today. You are all here because you've incorporated the hardest route with the most lasting impact into your Girl Scouting experience.

Our Bronze Awardees are working in teams to create a positive impact in their communities, while our Silver Awardees are flexing their growing skills and commitment, and our most incredible Gold Awardees are exemplifying the highest standards of leadership, excellence, and service. Across the board, this is incredible work that serves to better our society.

It is important to call out that this year, we celebrate 18 Gold Awardees from across our Council! We hope you take these accomplishments with you and hold close the concept of "making the world a better place" wherever your path leads.

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,

1. Brullie

Dana Borrelli-Murray Chief Executive Officer



Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.



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.



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

Claire McPherson - Emcee



Claire McPherson has been a lifelong Girl Scout—from becoming a Brownie in the First Grade—to earning her Gold Award—and now serving on the GSSNE board. Today, she runs an independent consulting business, where she provides marketing and communication services to small businesses, non-profit organizations, and political campaigns in Rhode Island. Before moving to New England, Claire was the Marketing Director at a Ford dealership in Midland, Texas, where she also served on the Board of Directors of Girl Scouts

of the Desert Southwest, which oversees West Texas and Eastern New Mexico. In 2017, she was named one of the "20 Under 40" by the Midland Reporter Telegram. After moving to Rhode Island in 2018, she continued her Girl Scout journey and joined the Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England board and now serves as the board's Second Vice Chair. Her Girl Scout Gold Award project continued on for over ten years, raising awareness for child abuse prevention in West Texas.

Jocelyn Foye - Keynote Speaker



Jocelyn Foye is a community leader, activist, and advocate for reproductive rights and social justice. She is executive director and co-founder of The Womxn Project, a grassroots organization dedicated to advancing equity, bodily autonomy, and civic engagement through public education, advocacy, and community organizing using the unique tool of artivism. Under Foye's leadership, the Womxn Project has become a

visible and influential force in Rhode Island's political and social landscape. The organization is known for its creative public interventions, statewide campaigns, and community-led initiatives that address critical issues, such as reproductive freedom, healthcare access, LGBTQIA+ protections, and gender equity. One of its recent initiatives, the Empowered to Advocate Series, offers tools, workshops, and resources to help individuals become effective advocates and changemakers within their communities.

Foye's approach blends art, activism, education, and public engagement. The use of these tools is rooted in her history as a Gold Award Girl Scout and M.F.A.-trained sculptor and spectacle-based artist. She recently received an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters from Rhode Island College for her leadership of The Womxn Project and their impact in the state furthering civil rights.

Special Thanks

The Highest Awards Committee:

Carolyn Dyer
Julieanne Fontana
Therese Hem
Michelle Jessop
Colleen Mcbride
Christine Zielinski

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

Become a member for life—and you'll be a champion of girls for years to come.

You can champion the next generation of change-makers by investing in Girl Scouts and becoming a member for life. Your contribution will support Girl Scouts, which gives them a place to prepare for a lifetime of leadership. And, by becoming a lifetime member, you're joining a group of like-minded supporters and contributing to Girl Scouts' mission.

Graduating seniors can become a lifetime member for \$200 (normally \$400)! This makes the perfect graduation gift.





Graduating seniors are invited to join Alum Troop 1919!



Learn more at gssne.org/alum



2025 Highest Awards Ceremony

Amica Insurance is proud to support

Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England



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, Jocelyn Foye

Presentation & Pinning of Gold Award Girl Scouts

Young Woman of Distinction Award

Closing & Photos*

Thank you for attending the 2025 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 1163, Somerset, MA Somerset/Swansea Animal Shelter Donations Katherine Castro, Cambrie Kelley, Hannah Rapoza, Avery Sadorf

Troop 718, Middletown, RI *Little Critter Garden* Carolyn Devereau, Elsie Ortiz, Isla Palumbo, Katie Downey, Katie Henry-Heywood, Madison Blickens

Troop 888, Cumberland, RI

Kits for Kids in the Hospital

Addison Covino, Leona Ducady, Aria Durant, Talia Ignacio,
Skyla Kazarian, Anna Mancuso, Madison O'Connor, Chloe
Roberts, Fallon Shanks

Troop 118, Cranston, RI

Public Outdoor Art Installation

Scout Murray, Sylvia Vaca, Mya Hanna, Eva Mitrovic, Betty
Blackwell

Troop 816, North Kingstown, RI *Girl Scout Badge Bins* Camdyn Clough, Emily Thorne, Callie Kizzee, Sasha Orsi, Harper Witham, Helena São-João, Isabel Hartley, Katelyn Millette, Elizabeth Morton-Aiken

Troop 19, North Attleboro, MA *Heat the Homeless* Brooklynn Austin, Andora Hamel, Medha Peruri

Troop 1152, Exeter, RI
Supporting Our Local Animal Shelter
Sydney Bouressa, Bridget Blake, Coral Carter, Skylar
Samson, Reese Bowder, Ava Lemaire, Libby Richardson,
Maeve Tuxbury, Ava Fletcher, Nadia Puleo, Scarlet Gagne

Bronze Award Girl Scouts



Troop 151, Warren, RI *Junior Paws Library* Emma Toste, Maggie De Los Santos, Elsa Knowlton, Kinley Ferreira, Jessica DaCosta, Claire Chin, Grace Donovan, Chloe Guimelli, Cara Cavalieri

Troop 242, Burrillville, RI

Burrillville Bike Safety
Sadie Garrison, Bea Pattie, Audrey Tompkins, Bridget Dybala,
Alice Lee, Hannah Gaudreau, Sofie Castonguay, Stella
Makowski, Darcy McElreath, Sydney Brissette

Troop 876, Swansea, MA

Animal Shelter Adoption Project

Nevaeh Hector, Micayla Mueller, Carly Berard, Evie Lynch,
Jade Faria, Eliana Hebda, Olivia Silva, Violet Baker, Sophia
Estacio, Norah Fulton

Troop 43, Warwick, RI *Project Linus Blankets* Kristyana Tabulina, Olivia Cabello, Saylor Geleney, Finleigh Jenkins, Aria Sangas

Troop 284, Coventry, RI

Making Our Community a Better Place Through Action and
Advocacy

Aria Ortiz, Ashley Schopac, Brynn Tobin, Emma Trainor,
Grace Poethke, Kyla Amaral, Lily Warner, Scarlett
Kwiatkowski, Sofia Cahoone

Troop 1163, Somerset, MA

Helping Furry Friends~Small Animal Enrichment Toys

Kendyll Pouliot

Troop 178, Providence, RI Supporting Providence Animal Rescue League Matilda O'Connell, Madeline Wade, Lourdes Rodriguez-Rohwer, Molly Rose Corman-Hart, Natalie Roberts

Silver Award Girl Scouts



Alexandra Affronti Troop 551, Barrington, RI *Gaga Pit*

Makayla Alger Troop 1003, Burrillville, RI How She Sees It: Our Stories

Magdalena Alvarez Troop 220, Warwick, RI *Inside Out Hike*

Emelienne Antone Troop 551, Barrington, RI *Gaga Pit*

Hannah Blickens Troop 730, Portsmouth, RI No Animal Left Behind

Addison Cadmus Troop 104, Pawcatuck, CT Stonington Digs Sand Volleyball

Jessica Cadorette Troop 1096, Somerset, MA *The Importance of Bees*

Ofelia Cantoral Troop 1375, Burrillville, RI How She Sees It: Our Stories Grace Charette Troop 1096, Somerset, MA *The Importance of Bees*

Kaelyn Cobb Troop 38, Coventry, RI Bat Boxes

Sarah Duckworth Troop 447, Riverside, RI Discovering Worth and Value

Abigail Fortier Troop 447, Riverside, RI Discovering Worth and Value

Evelyn Gilchrest Troop 86, Warwick, RI Art Techniques to Help De-stress Your Life

Samantha Giorno Troop 104, Westerly, RI Homework Club

Brenna Hall Troop 86, Warwick, RI Art Techniques to Help De-stress Your Life

Silver Award Girl Scouts



Payton Haworth Troop 910, Woonsocket, RI Green Dream

Genevieve King Troop 197, Cumberland, RI Student Run McCourt Middle School Library

Margaret LePage Troop 1096, Somerset, MA *The Importance of Bees*

Eliza Levesque Troop 1375, Burrillville, RI How She Sees It: Our Stories

Aoife McLaughlin Troop 180, East Greenwich, RI *Helping Hearts*

Abigail Mitchell Troop 180, East Greenwich, RI Helping Hearts

Zoe Miller Troop 910, Woonsocket, RI Green Dream

Kyra Nava Troop 86, Warwick, RI Art Techniques to Help De-stress Your Life Alicia Nelson Troop 180, East Greenwich, RI Helping Hearts

Leslie O'Donnell Troop 625, Jamestown, RI *Queer Little Free Library*

Sofia Pinheiro Troop 852, Saunderstown, RI Wickford Middle School Student Council

August Pittman Troop 86, Warwick, RI Art Techniques to Help de-stress your life

Stephanie Pratt Troop 389, Warwick, RI *Wish Upon a Book*

Gold Award Girl Scouts



Christina Angelini Somerset, MA Rosie Reborn What is your project about?

My issue to address was to promote youth to get involved to preserve the history of Veterans who served our country; including that females can make a difference in preserving ships and aircraft. The life and freedoms we have today are due to the service and protection provided by Veterans. As

generations age that served in World War II and Vietnam, many youth are not aware that they can help undertake physical projects or educational aspects of memorials in their community to ensure their future existence. By presenting and working projects, I hoped to inspire youth involvement in restoring these National Historic Landmarks to pass our mutual history to another generation of Americans. As a side issue, vocational work such as welding, electrical, painting, and other hands on projects were highlighted to showcase a healthy idea of getting out and working with your hands. Growing up with phones and the internet, many youth do not get together in person or learn different skills. This project hoped to pass along the interest and responsibility of maintaining our common heritage to a new generation.



Emilee Biello Somerset, MA The Arts of Health and Creation What is your project about?

My project was established to teach people the fundamentals of the arts and how they can benefit someone's health. While completing the project I introduced the arts and its benefits to people of all ages by doing things like posting interviews with local artists and creating exciting workshops for children to

attend and teens to volunteer at. Each free workshop was split into six nights exploring all the different elements of the fine and performing arts; color guard, painting, dancing, musical instruments, drawing, and singing. During each workshop my teen volunteers and I paused frequently while enjoying the activities offered, to practice mindful behavior with workshop participants understanding how the art activities make us feel, often benefiting us. One of the most important parts of the Girl Scout Gold Award is making sure my project is sustainable! I assure the sustainability of my project by giving people resources and ways to access the fine and performing arts to improve their health after the events and posts of The Arts of Health and Creation. I'm also excited to announce the influence The Arts of Health and Creation has on my eleventh-grade civics project: informing middle and high schools of the major benefits of the fine and performing arts and its effect on adolescents' mental health proposing ways to introduce the arts into lesson plans at schools.





Jordan Brown Middletown, RI Outdoor Leadership and Connection What is your project about?

One issue I noticed in my community through working as a camp counselor and youth volunteer was a lack of strong interpersonal and ekistics relationships. These relationships are vital for youth to develop skills like empathy, teamwork, and big-picture thinking. To address this, I created two programs centered on team-building, communication, and leadership, hosted in a camp

environment that naturally encourages nature awareness. The first was a Community Camping Weekend for 45 local Girl Scouts. I collaborated with Justine Santos, our service unit's Outdoor Advocate, and Eric Wright, a physical education teacher, to develop activities such as archery, bird watching, shelter building, and team-building games. The second program was an Outdoor Leadership Day for Thompson Middle School's 6th grade class—around 160 students. Both programs aimed to foster connections and personal growth through shared outdoor experiences. By combining structured activities with space for organic interaction, I helped create meaningful opportunities for young people to connect with each other and the world around them.



Olivia D'Ambra
Providence, RI
Olivia's Gold Award
What is your project about?

For my Gold Award, I addressed period poverty and the stigma surrounding menstruation, a systemic issue that affects students' education, mental health, and access to opportunity. Many students are forced to miss school or suffer in silence due to lack of access to menstrual products or the shame often associated with having a period. I wanted to change that starting with my own school, Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (TAPA).





Madison Donnelly Jamestown, RI Our Flag, Their Stories What is your project about?

Numerous times a year on certain holidays and days of remembrance, our town flies the flags that were on the caskets of local veterans. These flags tell the stories of heroes, those who chose to sacrifice. There was no proper database of these flags or much information on each veteran. I started my project, in

working with our local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign War posts, by creating a catalogue of each flag. Some information was listed on the flags, such as name, sometimes rank and branch of service. I then researched each veteran to create a biography; I utilized our historical society's records, online searches, cold calling potential relatives, and word of mouth. Once I gathered information on each service member, I created a website where this information could be accessible to all. I then created a unique QR code for each flag that would be attached to the flagpole every time it was flown; this code connected to the biography I had created for each person. This was a very large task as there were over 150 flags donated by family members of the deceased. The first time the flags were flown with the QR codes attached, I was overwhelmed with the feedback. Family members, friends, and fellow veterans were all so grateful to be able to access the stores of their loved ones. This project will allow my community to continue to remember the sacrifice and service of those who came before them.



Reagan Donnelly Jamestown, RI Community Theater Collaboration What is your project about?

For my Girl Scout Gold Award, I collaborated with the Jamestown Community Theatre. Their costume and prop storage were in dire need of organization, having been a place where people just stacked things in piles for years. The lack of a system led to this organization wasting money and

volunteer hours because items were lost, damaged, or bought unknowingly in duplicate. I began my project by first sorting through the contents of the storage facility, donating or disposing of things that were no longer needed or beyond repair. I then created a system of organizing all like items and costumes, carefully inventorying the items as I went along. I built storage units and secured other needed items such as bins and boxes to help with this process. I then created an online database of all of the items that is easily searchable. The storage area is now an area that is easily maintained because of the systems I set in place and the database allows members to find things with ease. This process has been tested through three productions since I completed my project, and I have continued to receive positive feedback for what I put in place.





Sammy Hughey
Wrentham, MA
Calming Corner Kits for Elementary School Students
What is your project about?

For my project, I created mental health kits for all K-3 classrooms at the Delaney Elementary School in Wrentham. These kits have tools for students to manage stress and anxiety. The kits have books, coloring pages, fidget and calming toys, and posters with breathing exercises, strategies to deal with stress, and positive words of encouragement. Not only does this help the students feel

better when they are feeling anxious or stressed, the tools in the kit help them learn appropriate and effective ways to deal with their anxiety. In addition, by having these tools in place, as they get older it will become even more helpful as they will already know what tools to use when dealing with stress. I also created documents for teachers with resources for children's mental health. I also hosted fundraisers and reached out to local stores as well as friends and family for support in purchasing items for the Calming Corner Kits. I presented my project to all the teachers at their first staff meeting back in September 2024. Since then, I have received a lot of positive feedback from the teachers at Delaney and had a great experience doing this project.



Lillian James

Wrentham, MA

Sí Se Puede: Strengthening Spanish Education in Schools What is your project about?

For my Gold Award project, I decided to focus on Spanish education. I worked closely with the Spanish department at my high school in order to execute it. I created a website filled with study guides and helpful resources for Spanish students. I included all grammar topics that are taught in my school's curriculum, as

well as resources that help students practice their reading and listening skills. I also helped to re-implement a Spanish-specific tutoring program at the high school. I also designed and formatted a website to hold all of the information I came up with, and made my own practice worksheets that students could use to study. After its implementation, I started to see more and more students take advantage of the tutoring and study services.



Alexandra LaBerge Plainville, MA

A Healthy Mind = A Happy Heart: A Beginner's Guide to Mental Health

What is your project about?

I gave a presentation on the importance of mental health and what it is to the Wrentham, Plainville, and Norfolk, Massachusetts elementary schools. They also got an activity where they drew the things that are closest to their heart. I think it's so important that

kids know what mental health is, and how to take care of it. Also, that they know to keep the things that bring them joy closest to them. This is why I did my project. I think this topic is so necessary to be talked about, especially starting at a young age.





Kate LaPlaca Wrentham, MA Food Pantry Recipe Book What is your project about?

For my Gold Award project, I worked with the Wrentham Food Pantry. I love to cook and bake, so I created a recipe book using foods commonly available at the food pantry. I compiled recipes for breakfast, lunch, dinner, snack, and dessert ideas, while keeping

in mind that the recipes should be healthy, easy to prepare, use simple ingredients, family-friendly, and cost-effective. I named the cookbook "Cheap and Easy Meals". I put together the ingredients for one of the recipes, Overnight Oats, in a large mason jar. I also incorporated my love of art and pottery into this project by making 35 handmade painted pottery bowls. I presented the cookbook, overnight oats jar, and pottery bowl in a gift bag. These were handed out at the weekly food pantry pickup. I enjoyed bringing together my hobbies and interests to create something useful and beautiful for the customers at the food pantry.



Emma Quigley
Bristol, RI
Project Pollinators
What is your project about?

My project focused on education, outdoors, and animals. The central issue that I aimed to address was helping to restore pollinators to my local environment. To begin my project, I attended

lectures at my local library, met frequently with my advisors, and looked at many books to gain background knowledge on pollinators, their habitats, and the reasons for their decline. Throughout this project I focused on educating younger school-age children about the importance of pollinators as well as their relation to us. I ran hour long classes at my local library that focused on topics of different types of pollinators (such as butterflies, bees, bats, and hummingbirds), their habitats, the effect on pollinators as well as their importance to us. I read stories and conducted craft activities and games to keep them engaged in learning. I also provided take-home projects such as seed bombs and biodegradable planters for the children to plant to create their own gardens.



Acadia Ullucci Rumford, RI Social Emotional Crafternoon What is your project about?

I worked with East Providence Public Library to host monthly programs for kids aged 4-7 and their parents looking to learn more about social emotional wellbeing and skills. At each meeting, we would read a book, teach a coping skill, and complete a craft related to the

topic we covered that month. Some examples of topics include communication skills, self esteem, problem solving, gratitude, and active listening. As the meetings progressed, I saw a lot of progress in kids who returned, in terms of their creativity, engagement, and communication skills. Progress was also reported by parents. This project helped improve awareness and development for mental health resources in the community I grew up in. It also provided an opportunity for children to learn about important topics in a safe environment.





Sophia Valcourt Somerset, MA Battleship Cove Operation Game and Murals What is your project about?

My project was a life size operation game for Battleship Cove. I also painted murals out of the original cot frames from one of the battleships on site. I came up with the idea after realizing that the Battleship didn't have many up to date, interactive, educational pieces. I made the operation board look like a sailor

laying on a cot. I made the holes in key parts of the sailor, with objects that are used by sailors. I also made and printed out an informational key that explains the game and what the object's purpose is on the ship. They were getting rid of the old cots, so I used those to create murals. There are many walls on the ship that are bare, so I painted murals on the cots. One was an American Flag, and the other one was a porthole. I made two of the cots into interactive mats for younger children to play on. One is made to look like water with docks, and I provided toy ships, airplanes, and submarines for the children to use. The second one was turned into a two-way chess/checkerboard. You can have two games going at once since each end of the cot has a board painted on it. The impact was strong because it is educational, but it also keeps people engaged in what they are learning about.



Lois Webber Coventry, RI Veterans Christmas Gifts What is your project about?

I purchased 200 personalized gifts for 17 children of veteran families in need. Along with the gifts, each family received a variety of necessities that they requested including winter clothes, toilet paper, and formal shoes. Each gift was selected based on a wish list and list of interests provided by each parent.

The goal for my project was to ease the financial stress of the holidays in a way that encourages recipients to reach out for assistance again.

Victoria Landry, Rehoboth, MA: *Inclusivity Week in High Schools*Many people in today's society struggle with some sort of disability. My Gold Award aimed to provide education to high school students and create a community that is inclusive of everyone.

Fiona Sharp, Bristol, RI Renewable Energy and Hydropower Awareness Campaign

My Gold Award aimed to address the lack of awareness and solutions about alternative energy, specifically focusing on hydropower.

Amanda Way, West Kingston, RI Composting Program in Richmond Elementary

My project aimed at addressing teaching composting to children. I wanted to help kids to learn about the benefits and uses of composting.

Thank You!



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