

Adult Awards

Overview of the available adult awards and how to nominate a volunteer.

Adult Awards

We are grateful for all of our adult volunteers' contributions to Girl Scouting and it is our joy to recognize their exemplary service through Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan and Girl Scouts of the USA Adult Awards. We honor those whose outstanding performance and contributions have become keys to the success of our programs, projects, and events- helping girls build confidence, increase skills, and reach their full potential.

Adult Awards are for those who:

- Go above and beyond and exceed expectations for their positions, either through their body of work and/or the number of years served.
- Support and make significant contributions that reflect the Foundational Elements of Girl Scouting and/or the Girl Scout Mission.
- Model excellence for girls and adults.
- Actively recognize, understand, and practice the values of inclusive behavior.
- Are an active, registered adult Girl Scout or community/business partner.
- Have successfully completed a term of service and all requirements for the position.

The Foundational Girl Scout Experience	
SETTING	ACTIVITIES
All-Girl Environment / Group of Girls	Badges and Patches
Safe Space	(Get) Outdoors
The 3 Girl Scout Processes	Product Program
Encouragement and Support to Continue	Traditions
Family Engagement and Participation	Field Trip, Outing, Travel, or Event
Consistent, and Supportive Adults/Volunteers	Take Action, Community Service

The Nomination Process

1. Complete one **nomination form and letter** for each award candidate. Be sure to read the criteria for the award, and fill in all the fields completely. In the nomination letter include accurate and specific details of the nominee's actions, programs, events, and level of service, and/or volunteer position held and for how long. A nomination letter is in addition to endorsement letters, it does not count as an endorsement letter.
2. Ask additional people to write the **required endorsement letters**. Endorsement letters should enhance and provide anecdotes to support the nomination letter. *You can find the number of required endorsement letters on the awards chart.* Be sure to communicate the deadline; as the nominator, ***you*** are responsible for timely collection and submission of the endorsement letters in addition to the nomination letter. Girls are encouraged to provide endorsement letters.
3. **Submit the completed nomination materials by email on or before January 15th to education@gshom.org.** You will receive confirmation upon receipt of the packet.

Adult Awards Timeline

May-January 15th	Nomination process open
January 15th	Nomination materials due
Upon Receipt	Nominator is notified of receipt
January - February	Adult Awards Committee members receive, review, and make recommendations that the nomination be a) approved, b) approved, with change of award, or c) not approved. These recommendations are submitted to Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan's Board of Trustees for a vote.
March	Nominators are contacted regarding award approval, and council ceremony invitations are sent to honorees.
April	Awards are presented at the council ceremony.

Things to Consider:

- Nominations are based on service completed the previous membership year. For example, a submission on January 15 2024, is based on service from before October 2023.
- Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan staff may nominate, write endorsement letters, and be nominated for Adult Awards. **Girls are able to nominate and write endorsement letters.**
- Individual endorsement letters must be unique.
- If the nominee has received an award in recent years, be sure to only describe their contributions since receiving the previous award. Adult Awards are not given for work that has already been recognized by Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan or Girl Scouts of the USA.
- Nomination decisions are based solely on the information provided in the nomination materials. To increase the likelihood of a nominee receiving an award, review the full award criteria and include complete, accurate, and specific information regarding the nominee's service in the nomination and endorsement letters.
- Submit a nomination letter in addition to the required endorsement letters. For example, if an award requires two endorsement letters, than three letters should be submitted with the nomination. One nomination letter and two endorsement letters.
- Family of the Nominee
 - Award nominations will not be accepted from family members or from members of a nominee's household.
 - However, one endorsement letter will be accepted from a family member or member of the nominee's household.
- If you have questions, please contact Adult Education Department at 800-497-2688 or send your questions to education@gshom.org

Sample Endorsement Letter

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for this opportunity to endorse *Volunteer* as a recipient of the Girl Scout Appreciation Pin. *Volunteer* is not only a Service Unit Team Member as Treasurer, she is a leader for a very active Cadette Troop.

Volunteer has given Girl Scouts the opportunity to grow in her area, including her troop doing community service. They've earned their Bronze Award, and are working on their Silver Award. For four years as a leader, she has helped the girls love to learn about nature and the environment, encourages the troop to share their amazing experiences with other girls, make a difference in their communities, and have lots of fun making new friends!

Along with *Volunteer's* help, the girls are always counting down to their next Girl Led adventure. Maybe it's artistic, scientific, getting outside, or helping the community. They are all Program Aides at a Volunteer-Run Day Camp, and have helped at council-sponsored programs, too.

Also, *Volunteer* is constantly encouraging and supporting the leaders in the entire area. She has mentored new and seasoned leaders through new experiences that show how the exciting world of Girl Scouts can be. She also relates to them that girls are at the center of everything we do.

Thank you for your consideration of *Volunteer* for the Appreciation Pin. I can say without hesitation that she would be an outstanding recipient of the Appreciation Pin. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me using my information below.

Sincerely,

Endorser

Phone & Email

Community Spirit Pin

Criteria

The Community Spirit Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service by reflecting the Foundational Girl Scout Experience and building the presence of Girl Scouting in one or more Service Units for a period of two or more years. One nomination letter and two endorsement letters are required for this nomination.



Examples of nominee

- A volunteer has organized a weekend event to support a local homeless shelter for families for the past three years. The event brings together Girl Scout troops from three Service Units to earn their grade level awards and collect needed donations of food, cleaning supplies and basic housewares for the shelter. Over 2,000 items have been collected over the three years. Girl Scouts have received a community award for their contributions at the annual Memorial Day parade ceremony for past two years.

Green Heart Pin

Criteria

The Green Heart Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service by building the presence of Girl Scouting in one or more Girl Scout Service Units through sustained and significant involvement for a period of five or more years. One nomination letter and two endorsement letters are required for this nomination.



Example of nominee

A Service Unit Manager has served for six years. During that time, she developed a unified, energetic Service Unit management team. In her second year, she was awarded the Appreciation Pin for the work done building

this team and growing membership. Since then, through the tremendous work of this team, the retention rate for girls and adults has increased over a 5-year period from 40 to 60 percent. This same Service Unit Manager has also assumed a leadership position for a classic troop when no other volunteer could be found. (She continued in her position of service unit manager.) Through the delivery of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, the volunteer has helped the girls to discover their strengths, to connect with their Girl Scout community and local community, and to take action to make their schools a better place by offering anti-bullying programs.

Friend of Girl Scouting Certificate

Criteria

The Friend of Girl Scouting Certificate recognizes community and business partners who support Girl Scouting at the Service Unit, Regional or Council level. (Certificate will reflect level of support.) The nominee actively supports Girl Scouting with funds, resources, community connections or in-kind donations that are instrumental in helping Girl Scouting flourish and grow. One nomination letter and two endorsement letters are required for this nomination.

Examples of nominees

- The Elks lodge generously donates the use of their fellowship hall for Girl Scout events over a 4- year period.
- The community center provides space for regional program offerings such as a Halloween lock-in, and Cadette/Senior/Ambassador Girl Scout workshops open to girls in multiple areas.
- The local community college has provided training space for council wide trainings for the past three years.

Volunteer of Excellence



Criteria

The Volunteer of Excellence award recognizes those volunteers who have contributed outstanding service while partnering directly with girls in any way to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) through use of the National Program Portfolio or who have contributed outstanding service in support of the Foundational Girl Scout Experience for girl and adult members. One nomination letter and two endorsement letters are required for this nomination.

Examples of nominees

- A volunteer Program Advisor works over the course of the year with a teen advisory committee of 30 current Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors who plan and deliver four performance day camps, using content from the *aMuse* Journey, targeted to girls in underserved areas of Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan.
- A Girl Scout troop leader has led the troop for three years. The troop takes on more service projects and invites other troops to participate, they also are active in product program and camping.

Appreciation Pin



Criteria

The Appreciation Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE). This service, which has had measurable impact on one geographic service unit, helps Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan reach and surpass its goals for that Service Unit. One nomination letter and two endorsement letters are required for this nomination.

Example of nominee

At an event, a Troop Leader noticed that the diversity of the girls did not match the diversity of the community. She talked with her Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan staff members and found that they had identified a potential for membership increase among the Hispanic communities in her area. She partnered with the service delivery team to create and implement recruitment strategies to reach both girls and adults and new ways of work to support new members. As a result, Hispanic girl membership rose by 14 percent and Hispanic adult membership by 15 percent last year. Those new members participated in series and camps, and 78 percent of them participated in troops.

Honor Pin



Criteria

The Honor Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE), which has had measurable impact on two or more Girl Scout Service Units, allowing Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan to reach and surpass its goals. One nomination letter and three endorsement letters are required for this nomination.

Example of nominee

A Trainer realized that although Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan created online courses and resources about the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE), at volunteer meetings she heard comments indicating that many volunteers were still hesitant to use Journeys to deliver the GSLE to girls. She worked with the Adult Education department to develop a GSLE Coach role, which would support all direct service volunteers as they implemented what they learned in the courses and put Journeys into action. This role was piloted in four service-delivery teams where, after the

first year, girls shared the impact of 14 new take-action projects via the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan web site; volunteer satisfaction scores increased by 12 percent.

Thanks Badge

Criteria

The Thanks Badge honors an individual whose outstanding service resulted in outcomes that benefitted the total council or the entire Girl Scout organization, and is so significantly above and beyond the call of duty that no other award would be appropriate. One nomination letter and three endorsement letters are required for this nomination.



Example of nominee

A volunteer saw an opportunity to use Journeys to increase membership in one of the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan target markets through the camp pathway. She helped Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan partner with local companies and groups to provide in-kind, financial, and volunteer support to build a Take-Action Tree House at each camp. She led a task group of girls to design and develop progressive programming, based on girl-led processes and Journey content, which culminated in take-action projects. The three-year project brought in 300 new Girl Scouts, a five percent overall increase in camp registrations the following year, 90 new volunteers and new partnerships with 11 local organizations.

Thanks Badge II

Criteria

The Thanks Badge II honors a previous Thanks Badge recipient who has continued to provide exemplary service in a leadership role, resulting in a measurable



impact that benefits the total council or the entire Girl Scout Movement. One nomination letter and four endorsement letters are required for this nomination.

Example of nominee

After receiving the Thanks Badge, the volunteer from the Thanks Badge example was motivated by the success of the Take-Action Tree House project and submitted the project to be presented as a best practice at a GSUSA conference. She then served on a national task group for two years to help educate and support all 111 other councils as they create long-term plans that integrate all council departments to implement the camp pathway to grow membership and deliver the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) through Journey use.

President's Award

Criteria

The President's Award recognizes the efforts of a service delivery team or committee whose exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience surpassed team goals and resulted in significant, measurable impact toward reaching the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan overall goals. One nomination letter and three endorsement letters are required for this nomination.

Example of nominee

Members of a service delivery team saw the need to better communicate information and opportunities to girls and adults in their Service Unit, so they organized a group of 15 teens and five volunteers, representing all communities in their jurisdiction, to create new communication strategies using social media. As a result, 36 percent more girls attended their local events, 90 percent of open area team positions were filled, and Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan gained 1,350 friends on Facebook.

The Juliette Gordon Low World Friendship Medal

Description

The Juliette Low World Friendship Medal is awarded to individuals and councils who have enriched and leveraged the global understanding of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting to develop responsible global citizens. This prestigious national award is approved by the GSUSA National Board of Directors.

Criteria

- **Impact on girls:** The nominee's efforts include girl involvement, resulting in increased opportunities for girl-led global opportunities and Take Action projects resulting in significant global impact.
- **Commitment:** The nominee has demonstrated dedication and commitment over a significant amount of time by continuously promoting and expanding the global dimension of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting. The nominee has promoted the Juliette Low World Friendship fund or other global Girl Scouting funding opportunities.
- **Global awareness:** The nominee has created and promoted resources and opportunities that increase the understanding of the global dimension of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting to Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan and the larger community.
- **Leadership:** The nominee is recognized by girl and adult members, and the larger community, as a leader who leverages the global impact of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting.
- **Membership:** The nominee is a current registered Girl Scout adult member in a council or USA Girl Scouts Overseas.

Nomination process

A Girl Scout council (includes USAGSO) or individual nominates a candidate or council*

that meets all the criteria and has not previously received this award. The GSUSA nomination form is to be completed in full and submitted along with two letters of endorsement describing how the nominee meets the criteria for the award. Nominations may be submitted at any time by mailing the nomination form and endorsement letters to the Vice President of Global Girl Scouting at the address provided on the form. The nomination is presented to the International Commissioner for review. Final approval is by the GSUSA National Board of Directors. Upon approval, the Vice President of Global Girl Scouting will coordinate the presentation of the award to the nominee. Requires separate nomination materials. Please ask Help Desk at 1-800-497-2688 or helpdesk@gshom.org.

Examples of nominees

The first example is an individual with a passion for travel, international volunteering, and Girl Scouting who has served as the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Global Volunteer Liaison for four years. In this role, she was tasked with increasing the global dimension of Girl Scouting throughout both Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan and the community at large. She began by collaborating with council membership staff members to identify the most underserved girls in the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan jurisdiction. She found a huge opportunity for growth among Hispanic girls and volunteers, and specifically within the Honduran community, spanning several urban and rural areas. By reaching out to the leaders and those communities, she forged partnerships and led girl and volunteer recruitment efforts that brought a 68 percent increase in girl membership and a 72 percent increase in adult membership over four years.

She also helped launch a twinning opportunity with a Honduran school for daughters of single moms. Through this partnership, the volunteer helped 15 Girl Scouts plan and

attend an international trip to Honduras to help build and supply a new library for this school. During her four years as Global Volunteer Liaison, she led two other international trips to World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) World Centers for 35 Girl Scout Ambassadors. She also has spoken and shared her experiences at each bi-annual volunteer enrichment workshop, encouraging and recruiting other Girl Scout volunteers to lead trips to the five WAGGGS World Centers.

In addition to sharing her passion and expertise in global Girl Scouting, this volunteer has been a regular contributor to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund and has spoken to 10 local corporations about financial support for the fund.

Another example is a Girl Scout council that identified the need to increase its global impact and awareness of the global aspect of Girl Scouting in its strategic priorities, so it developed a five-year implementation plan. Throughout those five years, the council created a travel fund to support girl involvement in global Take Action projects and dedicated half of a full-time staff position to coordinating staff and volunteer fundraising efforts for the fund and the Juliette Low

World Friendship Fund.

The council encouraged Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award candidates to think globally. As part of its annual plan, the council hosted an event for award candidates to talk with girls who completed international projects and travel, as well as to talk with potential award sponsors to plan for global impact and sustainability within the project.

The council also sponsored twinning opportunities with organizations in countries that represent the diversity of its girl and adult membership. Throughout a five-year period, the council has actively helped girls plan international trips to the five World Centers and successfully recruited volunteers to lead those trips.

Through effective communication of the intercultural aspects of Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding, this council has become a leader for cultural awareness and global action in the community. A page on its web site is dedicated to sharing successes of its girls and volunteers in regard to global efforts. It also offers a course about global Girl Scouting for existing volunteers and community partners, and it provides girl and volunteer speakers at community events.

Adult Awards Nomination Form

I am nominating: _____

For this award: _____

Nominee Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Volunteer Positions Held (if any): _____

Previous Girl Scout Awards (if any): _____

Name of person completing this form: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Please attach the following documentation:

NOMINATION LETTER describing work performed and outcomes achieved since last award received. Nomination letter does not count as an endorsement letter. Please describe specific efforts made in the following areas with pertinent dates, facts, and Girl Scout Service Units or regions served:

- If the nominee has worked directly with girls:
 - How they've provided outstanding service
 - How they deliver the Girl Scout Leadership Experience for girls
- If the nominee worked indirectly to support the Foundational Girl Scout Experience:

The Foundational Girl Scout Experience	
SETTING	ACTIVITIES
All-Girl Environment / Group of Girls	Badges and Patches
Safe Space	(Get) Outdoors
The 3 Girl Scout Processes	Product Program
Encouragement and Support to Continue	Traditions
Family Engagement and Participation	Field Trip, Outing, Travel, or Event
Consistent, and Supportive Adults/Volunteers	Take Action, Community Service

The required number of **ENDORSEMENT LETTERS**. Please list the names and contact information for individuals submitting letters of endorsement.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____