

Adult Awards • Nomination Information

Thanks Badge

In Girl Scouting, it's not just what girls do, but how adult volunteers engage them in a girl-adult partnership that prepares girls to have courage, be confident and make a positive impact on the world. Through the use of Girl Scout resources, volunteers create teachable moments that turn fun activities into educational experiences.

Whatever your volunteer position, your hard work means the world to girls, to Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan staff, and to Girl Scouts of the USA. We're calling on all members of society to help girls reach their full potential, and you've answered that call. So thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.

Adult Awards are for registered adults who:

- Go above and beyond and exceed expectations for their position description
- Make significant contributions towards the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Key Priorities or the Girl Scout Mission
- Model excellence for girls and adults

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan presents national awards annually to volunteers demonstrating exemplary performance in the delivery of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. These awards are based on nominations received by the community, parents and sister Girl Scouts. Nominations are accepted yearlong with a December deadline. 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 GSUSA adult awards.

Award nominations will not be accepted from family members or member of a nominee's household. Only one letter of endorsement will be accepted from a family member or member of the nominee's household.

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan staff may nominate volunteers, write letters of endorsement, and may also receive nominations.

Our Adult Awards committee reviews all applications. Thank you for taking time to recognize a special volunteer!

Tips for completing nomination and letter of endorsement forms:

- Complete one nomination form for each award candidate. Make sure all blanks have been completed on the form. (This may require some additional research.)
- Make sure all of your personal information is complete and legible so that we can contact you if we have any questions regarding your submission.
- Include the required number of endorsement letters as noted in the attached award chart.
- It is the nominator's responsibility to request endorsement letters from those familiar with the work and contributions of the nominee. Endorsement letters are not written by the nominator.
- The nominator should follow up with those individuals who have agreed to write letters of endorsement to ensure that letters are received prior to the deadline.
- The nominator should submit nominations and endorsement letters in one packet to their local regional center.
- Nominators will receive notification upon receipt of packet.
- Be accurate and share what the volunteer has done. Include details on the specific action, program, event, level of service or volunteer position. For example: The nominee has given excellent service to ten girls and their families by organizing many field trips, expert speakers, and activities that have gone beyond the normal Girl Scout troop meeting experience.

- If the nominee has received an award in recent years, **be sure to only describe their contributions since receiving the previous award.** For example: The nominee received the Appreciation Pin two years ago. **Since then**, her troop has grown from ten girls to 20, they have organized a community garden as a Take-Action project and as a direct result of her leadership example, the girls help at every area special event.
- Please remember that awards are not given for work that has already been recognized by Adult Awards or GSUSA.
- Attach additional documentation if needed.
- For more information, call an Adult Recruitment and Education Specialist at any Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan regional center at 800-497-2688 (800-49-SCOUT).

Nominations are due December 1, to:
 Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Adult Awards
 Committee
 Your regional address:

| | |
|--|---|
| Jackson Regional Center 4403 Francis St Jackson, MI 49203 Fax: 517-784-9553 | Kalamazoo Regional Center 601 W Maple Kalamazoo, MI 49008 Fax: 269-492-1439 |
| Lansing Regional Center at Wacousta 13287 Wacousta Rd Grand Ledge, MI 48837 Fax: 517-699-9405 | Saginaw Regional Center 5470 Davis Rd Saginaw, MI 48604 Fax: 989-799-1450 |
| Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor Regional Center 444 James L. Hart Pkwy Ypsilanti, MI 48197 Fax: 734-714-3037 | |

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Key Priorities

Created during a strategic learning process by a team of volunteers, community members, Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan staff and board members, these goals tie in with the 15 outcomes of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

By focusing on these key priorities, Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan provides girls with fun and life-changing experiences in a safe environment, where they learn to lead, live courageously, and take action in their communities.

Our Key Priorities:

- **Membership** Be the organization of choice for girls, parents, guardians, and volunteers
- **Program** Deliver outcomes-driven programs that support and build membership and resources
- **Funding** Diversify and increase revenue streams for long-term sustainability
- **Culture** Build and sustain a culture that is girl-centered, adaptive, nimble, fun, and rewards taking risks in order to win for girls
- **Brand** Communicate who we are and what we do today to build value and public trust, and to position ourselves as the premier leadership organization for girls

Our Mission and Vision

Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. We strive to be the premier leadership organization for girls, and experts on their growth and development.

Some helpful definitions:

Pathway a girl's major method of participation in Girl Scouting, (i.e.: classic troop, camp, travel). The majority of her Girl Scout activities focus on this topic.

Girl Scout Area a geographical region of Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan in which a volunteer is registered (usually a city/town or school district, where the member resides) represented by a three digit number.

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Region one of five geographical regions of Adult Awards named for the Michigan city in which the store and staff are located: Ann Arbor, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lansing and Saginaw.

Journeys a framework for a girl's Girl Scout experience. This curriculum, developed by Girl Scouts of the USA, is designed to incorporate the benefits of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience into everything girls do – from science experiments, art projects and cooking simple meals to traveling internationally, camping and protecting the planet's water supply.

Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) a bold, inspirational model of leadership that encourages girls to Discover themselves, Connect with their communities, and Take Action to make the world a better place.

Take-Action projects girls identify the root causes of community issues to create needed, thoughtful and sustainable change.

Adult Awards

Thanks Badge

Nominations are due December 1.

Description

The Thanks Badge honors an individual whose ongoing commitment, leadership, and service have had an exceptional, measurable impact on meeting the Key Priority goals of Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan or the entire Girl Scout Movement.

Criteria

- The nominee is an active, registered adult Girl Scout.
- The outstanding service performed by the nominee resulted in outcomes that benefited 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.

Nomination

A nomination packet is completed and submitted to the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Adult Awards committee, along with supporting documentation indicating how the nominee meets the criteria. The Adult Awards committee reviews the nomination documentation, then approves or denies it. The Adult Awards committee sends notification of the decision to the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan board of directors for confirmation.

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

Name of person completing nomination form: _____

Best way to contact you : email: _____ phone: _____

Name of nominee: _____

Nominee Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Is the nominee a current member of Girl Scouts? Yes No Not Sure

Current position(s) held by nominee: _____

Girl Scout Area(s) name and number (if known) on which the nominee has made an impact: _____

Please attach the following supporting documentation to indicate how the nominee meets the criteria for this award:

Three letters of endorsement

Awards previously received:

- Outstanding Leader/Volunteer Appreciation Pin Thanks Badge The Juliette Gordon Low World Friendship Medal
- Volunteer of Excellence Honor Pin Thanks Badge II
- Community Spirit Pin Green Heart Pin President's Award

In a letter of 100 words or more, describe current program impact (description of work performed/outcomes generated since last award received).

- If the nominee worked directly with girls, please describe how she/he has provided outstanding service to deliver the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through the National Program Portfolio. Give pertinent facts, dates, and Girl Scout areas or regions served or benefited. Include specific data, if known. (i.e. number of increased memberships, number of girls benefited, number of adults trained)
- If the nominee worked indirectly to support the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan mission and goals, please describe the specific impact made in one or more of the following functional areas:
 Community Cultivation Fund Development Program
 Council Support Services Membership Development

Attach additional pages, if necessary.

Please list the names and contact information for individuals submitting letters of endorsement. Please include the letter of nomination when requesting a letter of endorsement.

Name: _____ Contact information: _____

Name: _____ Contact information: _____

Name: _____ Contact information: _____

Signature of person submitting nomination: _____ Date: _____

For Office Use Only

Adult Awards Committee/Area Team decision:
 Approved Denied Pending, more information required

If pending, please describe the information required: _____

Signature of committee/team chair: _____ Date: _____

Council Board approval: Approved Denied Date: _____

Adult Awards • Endorsement Cover Letter

Thanks Badge

Along with the nomination form describing the volunteer's accomplishments, please include this cover page in front of the three (3) endorsement letters describing the outstanding leadership qualities of the nominee.

Name of endorser: _____

Best way to contact you : email: _____ phone: _____

Name of nominee: _____

Nominee Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

What is your relationship to the nominee: _____

- Please attach a letter that states, in 100 words or more, your reasons for endorsing this nomination.
Please read the nominator's letter and include specific ways the nominee has met the criteria for the award checked above and any other comments that may be helpful.

Signature of endorser: _____ Date: _____