

girlscouts  
of north east ohio



# Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony

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June 24, 2023 | 2:00 PM  
John S. Knight Center  
77 E Mill St  
Akron, OH 44308



# Gold Award Girl Scouts change the world

Gold Award Girl Scouts are change-makers. They have changed the world, changed their lives, and earned the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting.

To earn the Gold Award, a Girl Scout identifies an issue in their community, drafts a plan to address a root cause, and leads a team of volunteers to implement it. When the project is complete, the Gold Award Girl Scout and their team have made a sustainable impact on the world that continues to last beyond their involvement.

It's a huge accomplishment that also impacts the Girl Scout as a person. How they see the world—and how the world sees them—is forever changed. It's also a credential that will be with them for the rest of their life; having the Girl Scout Gold Award on a high school transcript or resumé can make a Girl Scout stand out when it comes to college admissions, scholarship applications, internships, and job interviews.

Eliza Botzman

McKayla Buck

Sascha Burgess

Elizabeth Caruthers

Ella Clapper

Lilly Colbeck

Isabella Cuff

Megan Earp

Selena Frantz

Sarah Friedlander

Isabel Gracon

Ellamarie Green

Grace Guy

Sarah Hall

Sarah Hermann

Aubriana Hills

Charlotte Hosek

Keely Jackson

Avery Junkins

Erin Keener

Lillian Kensicki

Caroline Niederhausen

Camille Paoletta

Chloe Porter

Eleanor Ramos

Makenna Ricketts

Madeline Silver

Hannah Strack

Megan Valloric

Rachel Whary

Caelum Wolak

Nina Zargari

# We are Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts bring their dreams to life as they work together to build a better world. Through programs from coast to coast, Girl Scouts of all backgrounds and abilities can be unapologetically themselves as they discover their strengths and rise to meet new challenges—whether they want to climb to the top of a tree or the top of their class, lace up their boots for a hike or advocate for climate justice, or make their first best friends. Backed by trusted adult volunteers, mentors, and millions of alums, Girl Scouts lead the way as they find their voices and make changes that affect the issues most important to them.



## Girl Scout Mission

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

## 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.

## 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.

# Welcome

Welcome to the 2023 Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony! Today, we gather to celebrate the exceptional achievements of Girl Scouts across Northeast Ohio and the profound impact they have made in their communities. The Girl Scout Gold Award recognizes their outstanding contributions and their relentless pursuit to make a difference. These remarkable Girl Scouts have not only envisioned a brighter future, but have taken tangible steps to transform their dreams into reality.

Through countless hours of hard work and determination, Girl Scouts have developed and implemented Take Action projects that address critical needs within their communities. This prestigious award is earned by only five percent of eligible Seniors and Ambassadors nationwide. To earn the Gold Award, Girl Scouts must meet a clearly defined set of criteria. Each Girl Scout carefully develops their project by evaluating the community's needs, choosing an issue they're passionate about, and creating an action plan to address the issue in a measurable and sustainable way. Girl Scouts have exhibited unparalleled ingenuity and compassion by addressing needs like fostering inclusivity, creating environmental change, and developing community programs. Their unwavering commitment to creating positive change has left an indelible mark throughout Northeast Ohio and beyond.

Girl Scouts who have earned the Gold Award aren't just creating positive change for others. According to the Girl Scout Research Institute's report *The Power of the Girl Scout Gold Award: Excellence in Leadership and Life*, award recipients have greater life benefits than non-Girl Scout alums; 99 percent of them hold leadership roles in their everyday lives, 70 percent are active volunteers, and 94 percent feel they have been successful in their educational endeavors. Of those surveyed, 98 percent agree that Girl Scouts has had a positive impact on their lives.

Yours in Girl Scouting,



*Kathy Moock*

Kathy Moock  
*Chair, Board of Directors*



*M. Jane Christyson*

M. Jane Christyson  
*Chief Executive Officer*

# Keynote Speaker



**Michelle R. Henry, P.E.**

*Senior Vice President, Customer Experience*

Michelle Henry is senior vice president of Customer Experience for FirstEnergy Utilities, a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp.

Henry began her career with the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company in 1988 as a Scholastics Awards Student engineer at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. She has served as the manager, Business Analytics; manager, Corporate Cash Management; and manager, Finance Strategy and Reporting. She became manager, FERC and Transmission Technical Support for FirstEnergy Utilities in 2011 and was promoted to director, Market Policy for FirstEnergy Service Company in 2014. She served as director, FERC & State Regulatory Compliance before being promoted to vice president, Customer Service in May 2020. She was named to her current position in August 2021.

Henry earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Ohio Northern University. She is a Registered Professional Engineer in the state of Ohio.

# Gold Award Ceremony

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

Girl Scout Promise

Keynote Address

Presentation of Awards

Closing

**Michelle R. Henry, P.E.**  
*Senior Vice President,  
Customer Experience*  
Keynote Address

**M. Jane Christyson**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
Welcome  
Presentation of Awards

**Kathy Moock**  
*Chair, Board of Directors*



# Gold Award Girl Scouts



**Eliza Botzman, Independence**  
*Let's Bring Happiness*

Eliza Botzman is an upcoming senior at Independence High School. As a Girl Scout for 12 years, she has earned the Silver Award and the Gold Award. After seeing how some people were not inviting or nice to others, she wanted to help make people feel more welcome in her high school. To create and spread positivity throughout the school, she put inspirational messages on mirrors to provide students and staff something positive to look at when times were hard. Outside of Girl Scouts, Eliza is an Eagle Scout in Boy Scouts, plays varsity soccer and swims, is a Sunday School teacher for her church, is a member of ASL Honors Society and National Honor Society, and a swim instructor. After graduation she plans to further pursue her education in Early Childhood Education.



**McKayla Buck, North Canton**  
*Calm Corners*

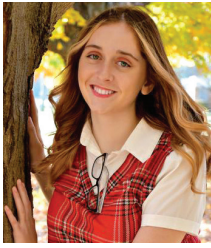
McKayla Buck is a graduate of Green High School. She was inspired to create Calm Corner in order to make a space for students to de-stress during the schoolday. The Calm Corner contains stress balls, water paints, Lego, egg chairs, and sand trays for sensory play. She also created calm buckets for classrooms, which contain similar items to the Calm Corner.



**Sascha Burgess, Avon**  
*Cemetery for Animals*

Sascha Burgess, graduate of Avon High School and sophomore at The Ohio State University, has been involved in Girl Scouts since she was in second grade. Sascha completed her Gold Award by working with Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, a non-profit organization that homes and rehabilitates farm animals. She helped to refurbish their cemetery for animals that have passed away after a happy life at the facility. It's typically considered "normal" to bury a cat, dog, or other house pet in a backyard because people see these pets as companions. A farm animal cemetery is a place to inspire the same respect and companionship for farm animals. Sascha hopes that by creating a peaceful environment for these animals to rest and for people to mourn, she might inspire a sense of compassion which may lead to others making more sustainable choices that do not exploit farm animals. Making more sustainable choices by not supporting the exploitation of animals also has benefits for the environment, as the meat and dairy industries accounts for 14.5% of greenhouse gas emissions. In high school, Sascha was involved in varsity cheerleading and served as president of three clubs: Model United Nations, Tech Club, and the Plant Based Student Association (which she also founded). In college, she serves in leadership positions in multiple clubs related to sustainability and to her future career goal of becoming a doctor, and she will be beginning work researching in a neuroscience lab next fall.





**Elizabeth Caruthers**, Madison  
***Blessing Box***

Elizabeth Caruthers is a graduate from Madison High School and has been in Girl Scouts for 13 years. She has earned her Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. After discovering the limited hours of the local food pantries and how food insecurities affect her community, she decided to create a Blessing Box. A Blessing Box allows people to take what they need and to leave what they can. This gives all community members a place where they can find food and other household items at any time. Elizabeth received a complete monetary donation to build her Blessing Box from Joanie Kehn of Health Markets and hosted a food drive at her high school in order to initially fill the Blessing Box with items. Her team worked together to install the Blessing Box at North Star Church in Perry, Ohio. Elizabeth's Blessing Box became a huge success and was even featured on the front page of the local newspaper, the News Herald. Outside of Girl Scouts, she is involved in National Honor Society, Marching Band, Jazz Band, Concert Band, Blizzard Youth Winds, and North Star Church's Youth Group. Elizabeth plans to attend Ohio University next year with a major in History Pre-Law with the goal of influencing federal policies.



**Ella Clapper**, Medina  
***Fall Prevention and Walker Safety***

Ella Clapper is a senior at Highland High School and has been a Girl Scout for 12 years. Ella strives to make the world a better place and has earned her Silver Award and Gold Award. Her Gold Award project aims to help prevent falls and educate the elderly using walkers for stability by focusing on proper techniques to improve safety and to decrease the risk for falls. Ella made over 50 walker bags and a safety video to distribute to local nursing homes to help prevent falls among the elderly population. The walker bag allows one to properly use their walker to transport essential items with them. The video demonstrates safety techniques to increase awareness of fall risks and ways to stay safe when using a walker. Outside of Girl Scouts, Ella has received honors for four-year Summa Cum Laude, has obtained her cosmetology license, is an Ohio Military Kids camp counselor, has donated her hair to Wigs for Kids three times, and is a three-year letterman for Highland Color Guard.. After graduation, Ella will attend Baldwin Wallace and pursue a career in Early Education.



**Lilly Colbeck**, Avon  
***Historical Children's Book "The Story Of Avon"***

Lilly Colbeck is a graduate of Avon High School and has been a Girl Scout for 13 years, earning the Bronze Award and Gold Award. Lilly's Gold Award project was inspired by her love for history, and she realized that the observation of local history often goes unrecognized - especially by children. Working with the Avon Historical Society and Public Library, she created a children's book celebrating the rich history of the city of Avon. Her book is available for viewing at the Avon Public Library and will be featured throughout the year at the Avon Storybook Trail. Outside of Girl Scouts, Lilly loves visiting the Cleveland Art Museum and singing in choir and a-capella groups. She plans to attend Ohio Wesleyan University this fall.



**Isabella Cuff, Mentor**  
*Greenhouse Project*

Isabella Cuff is a graduate of Mentor High School and has been a Girl Scout for 13 years, earning the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Students at Lakeland Community College and those in the surrounding community are benefiting from her Gold Award project. Isabella documented all the plants in the Lakeland Greenhouse, then created labels with members of her troop for the plants. These labels included a scientific name, common name, and QR code to a website for more information. This project aids in the care of the greenhouse and thus a large community. The greenhouse is used by students and teachers alike for classwork and research. It is also used by the college at community events as decor, or even just food. In addition to Girl Scouts, Isabella is involved in her church where she participates in events as a young adult leader, as well as in mission trips across the country. Since graduation, she has been attending Lakeland Community College and intends to pursue a Bachelor of Health Science.



**Megan Earp, Hudson**  
*The Big Kick*

Megan Earp is a graduate of Hudson High School. She has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and has earned the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Her Gold Award project was inspired by her experience with Crohn's Disease - a chronic illness primarily affecting the digestive system. While she was going through the diagnosis and early treatment process, she realized that there are very few books that feature main characters with chronic illnesses. To help break the chronic illness stigma and make kids feel less isolated in their illness, Megan wrote a graphic novel featuring a main character with Crohn's Disease and held a workshop at her local library. She raised enough money to distribute 150 copies of the book to libraries, hospitals, and schools around Northeast Ohio and donate almost \$1,000 to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation. In addition to Girl Scouts, Megan is involved with robotics, picking up new languages, and theater. This year she will be a sophomore in electrical engineering at Purdue University and is looking forward to studying abroad.



**Selena Frantz, Norton**  
*Connecting Students and Charities*

Selena Frantz, an upcoming sophomore at Oberlin College, has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and has earned the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. For her Gold Award project, Selena noticed that many high schoolers were in need of service hours to graduate, but were unaware of the possible non-profit organizations around them they could volunteer with. By creating a place for the two entities to interact, she connected both parties. Non-profit organizations are now able to submit information they feel is important for volunteers to know, such as hours, dress code, or possible services, and the volunteers can see which organization fits their schedule and interests best. Additionally, non-student community members can use this website to connect with local non-profits. Selena is majoring in Neuroscience and Law & Society and hopes to attend law school in the future. She is also the Chief Financial Officer of Leading Women of Tomorrow, a national non-profit group seeking to empower young women in public service; a columnist for the Oberlin Review; and a member of the Student Success Leadership Council at Oberlin, the Club Ice Hockey Team, and the Moot Court Team. During high school, Selena was named a National Merit Scholarship finalist, and served on the Teen Advisory Board for Ohio State Attorney General Dave Yost.



**Sarah Friedlander, Orange Village**  
*Wheelchair Accessible Picnic Table*

Sarah Friedlander, a graduate of Orange High School, has been a Girl Scout for 12 years. Sarah's inspiration for her Gold Award project arose from Jennings at Notre Dame Village's impact on the lives of her grandmother and her great uncle, who are Jennings at Notre Dame Village residents. Sarah also has a cousin, Sister Joesetta Marie Livignano SND, who lives at the SND Provincial Center. She understands that many residents require wheelchair assistance, so Sarah wanted to ensure her project would help accommodate the needs of all residents on the campus. Sarah planned and constructed a picnic table specifically designed for individuals using wheelchairs. The picnic table is constructed of a durable commercial plastic material that is virtually maintenance free and should last for many years. In addition to the picnic table, Sarah also made corn hole game boards and provided other games to be enjoyed outdoors by the residents. Sarah is hopeful that her project will make a positive and lasting contribution to the quality of life for both the Jennings at Notre Dame Village's residents and the Sisters of Notre Dame. In addition to Girl Scouts, Sarah works part time as a lifeguard and is a member of the National Honor Society and the Orange High School Robotics Team. Sarah plans to attend Bates College to study Biochemistry.



**Isabel Gracon, Chesterland**  
***Beginning Bassoon***

Isabel Gracon's Gold Award project was to teach middle schoolers how to play bassoon and write music for them to play. Isabel was inspired by the lack of underclassmen bassoonists in the school district. She wrote her own music because bassoon lesson books do not provide the best materials to learn from.

Isabel encouraged two middle school students to play bassoon and watched them play in a concert with everything they learned.



**Ellamarie Green, Avon Lake**  
***From Label to Able***

Ellamarie Green is a graduate from Avon Lake High School and has been a Girl Scout for 13 years, earning the Silver Award and Gold Award. Ella focused her Gold Award project on developmental disability awareness and inclusivity. Since elementary school, Ella has been an advocate for her peers with developmental disabilities and now plans to major in Special Education. For her Gold Award project, she raised funds for and installed inclusive play equipment at the already existing elementary school playground. Thanks to an unexpected amount of community donations, she was also able to donate \$200 worth of educational and sensory toys to the Special Education classroom. In addition to making the K-4 Special Education program in her district more accessible, Ella hosts and produces an informational podcast, From Label to Able. She interviews a new guest each episode who shares their knowledge and stories about the developmentally disabled community. The podcast has a global reach of seven countries and 25 states in the US. Outside of Girl Scouts, Ella participated in JV/Varsity softball, National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Peer Assisted Learning Services, Pep Club, and Key Club throughout high school. She held leadership positions in softball as Senior Captain, Public Relations Officer of NHS, and student representative of the Avon Lake City Schools Foundation Board. Ella will be a freshman at Purdue University in the fall and is excited to see where the future takes her!



**Grace Guy, Sagamore Hills**  
*Cart Corral*

Grace Guy is a senior at Nordonia High School and has been a Girl Scout since second grade. She loved working on the dozens of badges throughout her many years as a Girl Scout, especially the Horseback Riding badge and Horse Buddies summer camp. From this experience she's found that she loves to train and ride horses and is taking lessons at Leap of Faith Barns, as well as going to college at The University of Findlay for Equestrian Studies primarily focusing on western training. She has earned her Leader In Action, Program Aide, and Volunteer In Training Awards. Grace has earned the Leadership Torches and Service to Girl Scouting pins in the Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador levels. Grace has earned her Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Her Gold Award project was the Cart Corral at Camp Ledgewood that she designed to resemble horse stalls, and will benefit many Girl Scouts to use for many years to come with the use of the carts, along with the access of carts. In addition to Girl Scouts, Grace is on the High Honor Roll; and has earned Varsity Letters in Drama, Bowling, and Marching Band. Grace has played the trumpet since the sixth grade and currently plays the trumpet in the marching band and is one of the Trumpet Section Leaders, as well as a Brass Sergeant for the whole brass section, and is second chair Wind Ensemble for Concert Band.



**Sarah Hall, Canton**  
*Playground Project*

For her Gold Award project, Sarah organized the construction of a playground at St. Stephen Martyr Lutheran Church. The existing playground had become old, worn down, and dangerous. She wanted to provide children a safe and fun place to get outside and play. This playground has already been enjoyed by many in the community. When people rent the church's pavilion they are able to use the playground for their events, too. Sarah is thrilled to give back to her community, and is thankful for all the wonderful people who helped make this project a success.



**Sarah Hermann, Northfield**  
*Native Plant Garden*

Sarah Hermann is a graduate of Nordonia Hills High School and has been a Girl Scout for nine years, earning the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Students in and around Nordonia Hills High School benefit from the increased air quality and uplifted environment created by her Gold Award. She worked with many individuals, large community groups, and corporations to build a garden full of native plants inside one of the school's courtyards. This garden includes educational signs about each plant, current environmental issues, and how native plants can help the environment. In addition to Girl Scouts, Sarah is part of her school's band, Drama Club, and National Honor Society. She plans to attend The University of Akron to pursue a degree in Biomedical Engineering.



**Aubriana Hills, Richmond Heights**  
*Community Garden*

Aubriana Hills is a recent graduate of Notre Dame Cathedral Latin and has been a Girl Scout for ten years. In addition to completing her Gold Award, she has also earned her Silver Award and completed several Journeys. Aubriana's community garden was inspired by a calling to help those in underserved communities. Her garden delivers fresh produce to homeless and low income families to ensure access to healthy options. The garden is connected to her school's campus ministry program and delivers food once a week to East Cleveland. Organizing volunteers, finding donations, and incorporating different student groups made her project possible. Outside of Girl Scouts, Aubriana enjoys playing basketball, working as a nursing assistant, and staying involved in her community. She will be attending the illustrious Howard University this fall where she will study Biology on the pre-med track.



**Charlotte Hosek, Munroe Falls**  
*Special Goals*

Charlotte Hosek, who recently completed her freshman year at Point Park University has been a Girl Scout since she was first able to join. She has earned her Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards, along with her three Leadership Torches. Neurodivergent soccer players benefit from her Gold Award project through the video and resources she created. Special Goals was created when Charlotte's younger cousin Xavier, who is diagnosed with Autism, wanted to play soccer. She researched available materials relating to coaching neurodivergent children and found that resources were shockingly lacking. Charlotte decided to make her own coaching curriculum and host a soccer camp for neurodivergent children. The materials have been sent to clubs within OHTSL and she has posted a video on YouTube highlighting the importance of coaches being willing to take just a little bit longer to understand neurodivergent players. In addition to Girl Scouts, Charlotte is a highly competitive soccer player herself, currently playing on her college's women's soccer team. Charlotte plans to continue studying Secondary Education and playing on the soccer team at Point Park University until she graduates.



**Keely Jackson, Chardon**  
*E-Concessions*

The school concessions building has been used for many years to help with fundraising for many athletic teams without any maintenance. The lack of maintenance had led to out-of-date electric, rotten wood and hinges, and peeling paint. All these issues impacted the ability to safely use the building as well as the environmental footprint of poor energy efficiency. Keely addressed the root cause of the issue by installing more efficient plugs and lights with the assistance of an electrician. She also replaced the rotting wood with new wood and replaced the hinges. Additionally, she repainted both stands with non-toxic, sustainable exterior paint. To ensure the concession stands were well-maintained, she created a binder with all the renovation plans as a reference for future needs.



**Avery Junkins, Westlake**  
***The Positivity Post Box***

Avery Junkins, a recent graduate of Westlake High School, has been involved with Girl Scout for 12 years, earning her Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards.

Caregivers and patients at Fairview Hospital and Saint John Medical Center in the Cleveland area benefit from her Gold Award project. Avery created The Positivity Postbox, which are acrylic collection boxes that give people in the community a chance to connect with people in the hospital. People can submit cards, notes, small art projects, and crafts of their choosing as tokens of love, appreciation, and encouragement. This helps build stronger communities that provide support to one another. Research shows connection between health, mental well-being, and healing - people who have support have improved mental health, healing, and recover faster! Staff that feel appreciated perform better, have increased job satisfaction, and improved retention rates. A special program patch was also created so Girl Scouts who participate can earn a special Positivity Postbox Patch designed by Avery! In addition to Girl Scouts, Avery is active in a women's choir. She will be attending Cuyahoga Community College and Cleveland State University this fall to study to become a radiology technician.



**Erin Keener, Madison**  
***Pollinator Way-Station***

Erin Keener, a graduate from Madison High School, has been a Girl Scout for 12 years, earning her Silver Award and Gold Award. Her Gold Award project targeted the needs of our local pollinator population. She was able to make various gardens while working with local organizations such as MHS Ecology,

Arthur Holden Leadership Institute, and a 4-H club from Geauga County. Erin worked hands-on with these groups, whether she was prepping for a class, actively teaching them how to help our pollinators, or building pollinator houses with these groups. When she was not working on her project, she stayed active in her community as a member of National Honor Society; Junior Fair Board; Buckeye Showman 4-H club; playing a Tenor Saxophone in her Marching, Pep, and Concert Band; and being a varsity tennis player. She plans to continue her involvement as she becomes an Akron Zip this fall, majoring in Accounting and minoring in Spanish.



**Lillian Kensicki, Parma**  
***The Pop-Up Compliment Shop***

Lilly Kensicki is a graduate of Normandy High School and a current sophomore at Kent State University. She has earned the Bronze and Gold Awards in her seven years as a Girl Scout. The Pop-Up Compliment Shop was inspired by the first meeting with her new troop during her senior year where the icebreaker activity asked Girl Scouts to write compliments to other troop members, some who were friends and others she did not know. The feeling that came from receiving the kind words from her fellow Girl Scouts inspired the idea for the Pop-Up Compliment Shop. A project designed to provide “a compliment card from a stranger” that uplifts the spirits of teens at Normandy High School as well as being a discreet way of providing mental health resources in case someone needed them and didn’t know how to ask for help. Volunteers from her Girl Scout troop and multiple clubs at Normandy helped write hundreds of compliments, which were distributed throughout the school day. The reception was fantastic! In addition to Girl Scouts, she served as the Student Government Vice President, Section Leader in the Marching band, and Vice President of the Drama Club during her senior year. Her plans include graduating from Kent State with a degree in Mechatronics Engineering Technology and minor in Sustainability.



**Caroline Niederhausen, Strongsville**  
***Cherry Tree Free Little Library***

Caroline Niederhausen, a graduate of Strongsville High School and a sophomore at the University of Cincinnati College - Conservatory of Music, has been a Girl Scout for 13 years. She has earned the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Elementary children at the Cherry Tree Apartment Complex in Strongsville benefit from a free little library that she built. Caroline realized many children that lived in the community did not have books as easily available to them as others. The Cherry Tree Free Little Library is an asset to the area and will provide children with many hours of reading for years to come. In addition to Girl Scouts, Caroline was involved in multiple music ensembles, an active member at her church, other community service organizations, and played softball throughout high school. She is currently on a nationwide tour performing with the DCI group, the Blue Knights. She hopes to become a music educator where she can share her love and passion for music with others.



**Camille Paoletta, Chagrin Falls**  
***Pants for YWCA Women’s Shelter***

Camille Paoletta, a Chagrin Falls High School graduate and an upcoming second-year student at The Ohio State University, has been a Girl Scout since first grade. She has earned the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Women experiencing homelessness from emergency situations have been positively impacted from her Gold Award project. Camille raised money, bought and built shelving, and hosted a pants clothing drive for the YWCA Norma Herr Women’s Center in Cleveland. Camille identified a problem that affected a significant number of women in Cuyahoga County and aimed to educate herself and others on those in the community experiencing homelessness. In addition to Girl Scouts, Camille is an honor student at OSU and is part of the kindness club on campus, The Boo Radley Society. After graduating, Camille plans on becoming a certified radiation therapist.





**Chloe Porter, Wadsworth**  
*School Window Coverings*

Chloe Porter is a graduate of Wadsworth High School and has been a Girl Scout for 13 years, earning her Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Her Gold Award project has helped high school students and staff be safer in their school. Chloe made blackout window shades that easily drop down over every classroom window in case of a lockdown. They are rolled up when not in use and have a weighted bar that allows them to quickly release in case of emergency. These can easily be taken off and washed if necessary and could last as long as needed. Outside of Girl Scouts, Chloe was the tennis captain for two years, editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, and now attends The Ohio State University. She is majoring in Information Systems on the Pre-Law track.



**Eleanor Ramos, Concord Township**  
*The Only Truth is in Music*

Eleanor, a student of Riverside High School, chose to focus on the importance of music for her Gold Award project. To complete *The Only Truth is in Music*, she spent nine months and over 300 hours collecting more than a hundred instruments across Ohio and Pennsylvania. After receiving donated instruments, Eleanor repaired and refurbished all the items in a space that was created by converting the garage into a musical instrument workshop. Eleanor spent hours delicately repairing instruments, such as violins, guitars, flutes, and pianos. Once the donations were in nearly perfect condition, they were assigned a serial number and entered in an online database. Finally, the donations were delivered to the Willoughby Fine Arts Association. Through the Willoughby Fine Arts Association, students living at or below the poverty line can rent the instruments for \$20 per semester. Additionally, qualifying students receive necessary scholarship funds toward music education. *The Only Truth is in Music* has an estimated value of \$80,000 - \$100,000 in inventory, and has been recognized by *The News-Herald* and other local news organizations. Eleanor received a Recognition of Service from the Veterans of Foreign Wars for her efforts and received a highlight on *The Hearts of Gold* Podcast based in Wisconsin. Nationally, she has been recognized as an outstanding leader. She pursued her Gold Award project to combat the struggle for accessible music education while living in poverty and was inspired by the purchase of her first electric guitar to make music accessible to all despite socio-economic challenges. After purchasing the guitar and equipment, paying for repairs as needed, and the cost of lessons, she understood that this type of investment is not feasible for all and searched to create accessibility for students with limited means.



**Makenna Ricketts, Chardon**  
***LAX-ABLED An Adaptive Lacrosse Initiative***

Makenna Ricketts, an upcoming senior at Chardon High School has been a Girl Scout for 12 years and has earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Individuals with special needs are benefiting from her adaptive lacrosse program, LAX-ABLED. After consulting with an adaptive lacrosse program in Maryland, Makenna held donation drives for lacrosse equipment and trained “coaches” on how best to support individuals with special needs. She provided five summer clinics where LAX-ABLED athletes learned basic lacrosse skills and played adapted lacrosse games. Makenna continues to provide LAX-ABLED clinics during the year. LAX-ABLED was also recognized as an adaptive lacrosse program in USA Lacrosse Magazine! In addition to Girl Scouts, Makenna is a goalie for her high school varsity and club lacrosse teams, is a member of the National Honor Society, and enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and cat - Wally. After graduation, Makenna plans to attend Wittenberg University to continue her lacrosse career and major in Special Education.



**Madeline Silver, Wadsworth**  
***The Pursuit of Art Through the Years***

Madeline Silver is a graduate of Highland High School, currently studying Interior Design at Miami University. She is passionate about sharing art in the community, and focused her Gold Award project on integrating different forms of art in an independent/assisted living home in Wadsworth. The art event occurred over the course of a month, and included three events hosted in the independent/assisted living community that were more uncommon. The first day the residents worked on collages and were given a prompt to create a beach scene with different colored paper. This focused on creating different pictures using abstract shapes. The second day they created different colored pencil drawings and shaded the different shapes. During the third and final day the residents were able to partake in a neurological creative exercise using watercolor. She asked each resident to focus on something positive in their life and then write it on the back of their paper. They then had five minutes to listen to music and draw what came to mind. After this the residents spent time painting with watercolors according to their word and picture. Class sizes increased throughout the month and some residents even asked to showcase art created during their free time! Seeing all the residents’ creativity grow as they continued to come back each week was a fulfilling experience for Madeline, staff, and residents. Her goal to increase art appreciation was successful and she could see the creative freedom and interaction of these projects change the atmosphere in the assisted/independent living community. She enjoyed having the opportunity to work with the individuals in this community every week and see their appreciation for art grow.



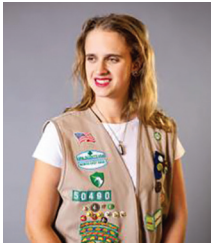
**Hannah Strack, Strongsville**  
*Garden Christian Academy Musical Upgrade*

Hannah Strack, an upcoming homeschooled junior, is a proud Girl Scout of eight years, having earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Through her Gold Award project, underprivileged children living in inner-city Cleveland have benefited from the implementation of an updated music program. Hannah and her team hosted a music recital amongst other fundraisers and, thanks to their community's charity, raised \$2,270, over twice their goal! The donations created a fun and educational music program at the Garden Christian Academy (GCA), a recently opened school dedicated to ending generational poverty. After planning and leading a summer music class, Hannah volunteered at the GCA first-grade music class. She helped lead the first holiday concert with their music education teacher whose hire was inspired by her efforts. Hannah identified a need in the community and completed a project that will have a lasting impact. Students at the GCA have the opportunity to enjoy participating in a music class and to play musical instruments. In addition to Girl Scouts, Hannah is involved in her church youth program and started hip-hop dance. This fall, Hannah will take art and music courses at Tri-C. She currently plans to major in Art and Music in either South Korea or Australia.



**Megan Valloric, Uniontown**  
*John Torok Community and Senior Center - Raised Rain Garden*

Megan Valloric has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and recently became a lifetime member. She has earned her Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. She is passionate about saving the environment, which led her to educate City of Green citizens on water conservation. For her Gold Award project, Megan designed a raised rain garden at the John Torok Community & Senior Center in Green, Ohio. In addition to the garden, there is an educational sign explaining the process and purpose of rain gardens. Included on the sign is the importance of water conservation and how families can conserve water at home. Megan worked with the City of Green Park and Development Department, Engineering Department, and the City of Green Living Green Task Force. In addition to Girl Scouts, Megan is currently enrolled at The University of Akron Williams Honors College where she majors in Human Resource Management. She actively participates in activities hosted by the University of Akron College of Business and is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management. After graduating, Megan plans to work in the field of Human Resource Management.



**Rachel Whary, Grafton**  
***The Gold Obliteration Room***

The Obliteration Room was made to spread art from cities to rural areas. The Obliteration Room, a concept created by Japanese Artist Yayoi Kusama, is a room designed to be painted completely white and serve as a blank canvas where tourists can come and spread creativity by placing circular, vibrant stickers throughout the room. The room is filled with white furniture and accessories. This Gold Award project required over 61 gallons of paint and 80 of labor. This room was a huge success and was advertised nationally, bringing in tourists from out of state and raising funds for our local art communities. Rachel is thrilled to have brought this creative and therapeutic experience to Ohio.



**Caelum Wolak, Mentor**  
***Project Hope for the Homeless Memorial Garden***

Caelum Wolak, a graduate of Mentor High School, has been a Girl Scout for four years, during which he earned the Gold Award. Residents at Project Hope, a homeless shelter, benefit from his Gold Award project. The garden serves as a place for individuals to gather and build a community, as well as cultivate new skills. Those staying at Project Hope have a green space where they can sit and talk; they can also learn how to care for a garden. Caelum has identified a need in the community and completed a project that will have a positive impact. In addition to Girl Scouts, Caelum was part of Mannheim Orchestra and assistant concertmaster. He is also currently interested in ornithology and bird watching. Caelum will be a second year student at OSU this fall and studies Plant Pathology.



**Nina Zargari, Chesterland**  
***In their Kiss I taste the Revolution***

Nina is a graduate of West Geauga High School. Through her Gold Award project, Nina addressed the issue of queer artist suppression and the lack of representation in both art and art history. She created the Zine publication as a safe space for queer artists to express themselves while also encouraging a dialogue between artists and allies where experiences could be shared. By bringing awareness to not only queer artists but also other marginalized groups, Nina hopes to spark conversations that will change how their art is perceived and acknowledged. The Zine empowers artists and readers alike, and showcases the importance of having one's voice heard.

# Thank you to our Gold Award Committee

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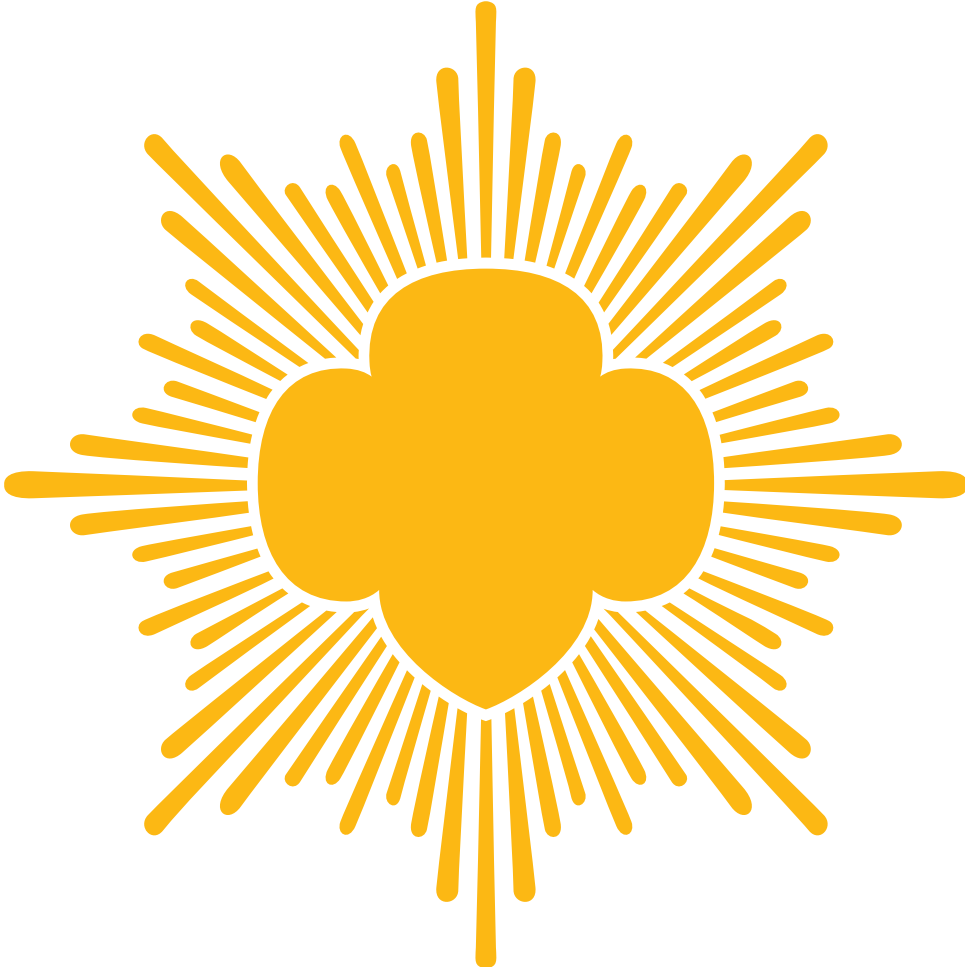
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