



**Girl Scouts of North East Ohio  
Corporate Office  
One Girl Scout Way  
Macedonia, Oh 44056-2156**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Girl Scouts Receive Highest Honor**

**Macedonia, OH** – Girl Scouts of North East Ohio (GSNEO) will present the Girl Scout Gold Award to 68 outstanding young women Saturday, June 19 at 11 a.m. at the Twinsburg Hilton Garden Inn. The third annual Gold Award Achievement Celebration will recognize the achievements of Girl Scouts who demonstrated their ability to lead and the desire to make a difference in the world.

The Gold Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn. It recognizes that girls, 14 to 18 years old, have embraced the values of Girl Scouts and have designed, developed, and led projects that have facilitated positive change in their communities. These women are part of an elite group that set a challenging goal, and persevered to achieve that goal. Only about six percent of eligible girls take the rigorous path toward earning this prestigious award, but those who complete the journey change the lives of others, and their own, in amazing ways.

“These girls are the finest example of what the Girl Scout mission is all about,” said GSNEO Chief Executive Officer Daisy L. Alford-Smith Ph.D. “Achieving the Gold Award sets the foundation for a productive lifetime of giving back to the community because of the strong leadership and organizational skills that have been gained through their experience.”

A Girl Scout who has earned the Gold Award is a proven community leader. Through leadership and hard work, she has built life skills, explored career options and discovered that one individual can make a profound difference in the quality of life in her community.

A growing number of colleges and universities are also recognizing the achievements and leadership abilities of Girl Scout Gold Award recipients by awarding them scholarships.

Congratulations to the following Girl Scout Gold Award Honorees:

#### **North Service Area Gold Award Recipients:**

Hillary Stradtman  
Christianna Joy Holmes  
Brittany Lynn Ranchoff

Emily Mills  
Emily Steffen  
Rachel Ann Murry  
Allison Gray  
Mary Walters  
Kate Okrez  
Esther D’Mello  
Elizabeth Bucklen  
Emily Kardamis  
Brianna Ziganti  
Sarah Pelger  
Alisa Blumenthaler  
Victoria Gruber  
Lisa Marie Gillmore  
Julie Haumschild  
Rachael Stone  
Kelsey Brax  
Annemarie Balfe

**Central Service Area Gold Award Recipients:**

Abigail Marie Tanner  
Rebecca Wolf  
Megan Hach  
Sarah Coyne  
April Porter  
Lara Schoeffler  
Alyssa Mauser  
Maria Hughes  
Rebecca Carman  
Deanna Klettlinger  
Stephanie Klettlinger  
Natalie Weekley  
Melissa Anne Rose Paydo  
Katherine Anne Mary Paydo  
Lyndsey Herman  
Heather Benya  
Lauren Buser  
Nora Wisor

**South Service Area Gold Award Recipients:**

Megan Capitena  
Rena Steiger  
Olivia Lemley  
Brittany Trout  
Lauren Raymond  
Amanda Dobson

Betsy Dobson  
Lydia Hakola  
Sarah D’Nelle Beres  
Rachel Betz

**West Service Area Gold Award Recipients:**

Danielle Reddinger  
Amber Wiley  
Cassandra Eve Nix  
Christina Herbst  
Kyleigh Whitsel  
Margaret Elkanick  
Lindsay Mudrak

**East Service Area Gold Award Recipients:**

Christina Shobel  
Megan Smith  
Kayla Marie Reardon  
Kory Brady  
Kayla McMinn-McCoy  
Anna Bumgardner  
Heather Pownell  
Susan Lee-Maher  
Heather Martin  
Maria Reibstein  
Sarah Ritchie  
Jamie Caldwell

**Girl Scout biographies, project descriptions and photos, please contact Kimberley Graves at (330) 983-0376, or by email at [kgraves@gsneo.org](mailto:kgraves@gsneo.org).**

The Girl Scouts of North East Ohio is the premier organization for leadership development for girls. GSNEO serves 40,000 girls and 15,000 adult volunteer members throughout an 18-county region in Northeast Ohio, including Medina, Portage, and Summit counties; Cuyahoga, Geauga, and Lake counties; Carroll, Stark and Tuscarawas counties; Ashtabula, Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull counties; Erie, Huron, Lorain, Sandusky and Seneca counties.

Since its founding in 1912, Girl Scouts has provided more than 50 million girls with time-honored programs that engage them with their communities; enhance self-esteem; increase financial literacy and interest in math, science and technology; encourage good health and nutrition and build leadership skills necessary for them to move confidently into their futures. Today, Girl Scouts is the #1 girl organization in the world, with 3.7 million members throughout the United States, including U.S. territories, and in more than 90 countries through USA Girl Scouts Overseas.