



Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony



Saturday, June 21, 2025
2:00 - 4:30 PM

John S. Knight Center
77 E Mill Street
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 Gold Award 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.

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|--------------------|--------------------|
| Madelyn Adkins | Lucy Macejko |
| Rebecca Babb | Chloe Mance |
| Sarah Bernardo | Cecelia Mascia |
| Angel DeVor | Katie Mostoller |
| Molly Dubitsky | Isabel Nerpouni |
| Brianna Easterling | Megan Panchula |
| Grace Fricker | Katie Reynolds |
| Sophie Gehring | Grace Robbins |
| Marissa Gerogolian | Katelynn Roberts |
| Laura Hall | Irenne Scherer |
| Sydney Harbour | Elizabeth Siembida |
| Emily Heino | Gabriela Skomra |
| Anna Holthouse | Olivia Ullner |
| Sicily Horn | Clover Wagner |
| Madolyn Kost | Aubrey Winczewski |
| Makaela Lubrano | |

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 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.

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.*

Welcome

Welcome to the 2025 Girl Scout Gold Award Celebration! 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



Jolene Lane
President and Founder, Equity Lane, LLC

Jolene A. Lane has recently begun a new endeavor as Director of the Akron Innovation Team (i-team), an initiative of the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University, working with the Mayor and city leadership focusing on building prosperous futures through climate action and advancing racial wealth equity. She is also President and Founder of Equity Lane, LLC, a consulting practice that focuses on the aspiration of organizational belonging, diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility strategy, and working with organizations and their leaders in the corporate, education, and non-profit sectors offering practical guidance in developing intercultural competence, work project improvement, and organizational change. Jolene is a member of the Akros Network – Compliance and Consulting Services proactively and reactively protecting organizations. Jolene built her career in education and served previously as Vice President for Inclusion and Equity and Chief Diversity Officer at the University of Akron, as well as Senior Director for Diversity and Community Affairs at Teachers College, Columbia University. A seasoned educator, she has worked in higher education administration and as an elementary and secondary school principal, and in the non-profit sector as Executive Director of Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America, specializing in college access, leadership development, and providing access and opportunity for first generation and underrepresented students.

Jolene studied mathematics and pre-med at Harvard University, earned a Master of Education from Harvard's Graduate School of Education in Administration, Planning and Social Policy, and is currently completing her doctoral dissertation from Teachers College, Columbia University in Adult Learning and Leadership. She is also a Qualified Administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) assessment of intercultural competence.

Jolene was a proud Girl Scout growing up in Colorado. Consequently, she is actively involved in community initiatives supporting inclusivity and building relationships that foster community involvement impacting race and gender equity, education, and the dual tenets of economic and social justice. She serves on several non-profit boards including the Boards of the Akron Urban League where she serves as Board Chair, Athena Akron where she serves as Vice President, the Akron Community Foundation and the ACF Community Investment Committee, the Women's Endowment Fund, the American Heart Association, the International Soap Box Derby, the Soul of Philanthropy Advisory Board, the Summit County Arts & Inclusion Council, and the Greater Akron Chamber's Diversity Professionals Council. She served on the Sojourner Truth Project and as co-chair of the Education Subcommittee of the [Akron] Mayor's Racial Equity and Social Justice Task Force. Jolene recently completed her twenty-seventh year of service as a trustee of the Fountain Valley School of Colorado, her alma mater, where she was honored in 2022 with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Jolene was honored in 2025 with a Legacy Award by the University of Akron at the E3 Male Summit, and also in 2020 with the Athena Leadership Award. She is a member of Leadership Akron Signature Class 35 and serves as a Coach for Diversity on Board. Jolene is a member of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education. Jolene and her husband, King Lewis, proudly enjoy their legacy of four adult children, 15 grandchildren, and Zuri, the Great Dane.

Welcome

Welcome

M. Jane Christyson
Chief Executive Officer

Pledge of Allegiance

Girl Scout Promise

Keynote Address

Jolene Lane
*President and Founder,
Equity Lane, LLC*

Presentation of Awards

M. Jane Christyson
Chief Executive Officer

Kathy Moock
Chairperson, Board of Directors

Closing



2025 Gold Award Girl Scouts



Madelyn Adkins, Strongsville ***Making a Splash: Fun and Safety in the Water!***

Madelyn Adkins is a recent graduate of Strongsville High School and has been a Girl Scout for 12 years. She has earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Driven by a lifelong passion for swimming, Madelyn focused her Gold Award project on the critical issue of drowning prevention. She organized a comprehensive water safety clinic that included presentations, live demonstrations, and hands-on activities to educate children in her community about staying safe in and around water. In addition, she offered private lessons and coached young swimmers to help build both skills and confidence. Outside of Girl Scouts, Madelyn is the founder of Girls Growing the World, an organization that strives to ignite a passion for business and leadership among girls. As part of her organization, she has interviewed many business entrepreneurs and leaders in the business world for her podcast. She was the captain of the varsity swim team, a four-time district qualifier, a four-year letterman, and an all-conference athlete in the 200-yard freestyle. Madelyn was also the president and founder of the Debate Club, as well as a member of the Wind Ensemble, National Honor Society, Key Club, Rho Kappa, Mu Alpha Theta, and National Science Honor Society. In the fall, Madelyn will be attending the University of Notre Dame, where she will major in finance with plans to pursue a law degree.



Rebecca Babb, Macedonia ***Flag Retirement***

Rebecca Babb is a graduate from Nordon High School and has been a Girl Scout for 13 years. She has earned her Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Rebecca saw a need in her community for education on how to retire the American flag. She wanted to have a place for people to retire the flag and to learn how to retire the flag with the dignity it deserves. She reached out to her local American Legion and the City of Macedonia along with local businesses, requesting advise and cooperation. Fundraising enough money to buy and install a flag retirement box at the Memorial park in Macedonia, she learned how to work with city officials, such as the mayor, to decide how and where the box would be installed. The city also agreed to help her and the Girl Scouts dispose of the flags, maintain the box, and educate the community for years to come. Rebecca is involved in her local church, volunteering in the children's ministry. She belongs to American Legion Auxiliary, Children of the American Revolution, and the school yearbook. She plans to attend Ohio University majoring in business analytics.



Sarah Bernardo, Painesville
A Step Towards a Dementia-Friendly Society - Memory Kits and Education

Sarah Bernardo is a junior at Riverside High School, a student at Lakeland Community College, and has been a Girl Scout for 11 years. She has earned the Silver and Gold Awards. Sarah decided to focus her Gold Award project on advocating for people with dementia and their caregivers after her experience volunteering in a dementia wing of a local nursing home and noticing that local libraries didn't always have books geared towards people with memory loss. For her Gold Award project, she led teams of volunteers in creating memory kits and books of encouragement designed to provide comfort, stimulate mental engagement, and bring joy to those affected by dementia. The kits and books were distributed to ten libraries and nursing homes in her county. Sarah is currently working on a project to teach community groups to sew warm hats for homeless veterans. In addition to Girl Scouts, Sarah spends time as a member of NHS, church council, squad in marching band, hiking, playing with her dog, working at Dairy Queen, and hanging out with her three brothers. After high school, Sarah plans to pursue a career in medicine.



Angel DeVor, Rocky River
Care Packages for Newborns and Their Mom

Angel DeVor has just completed her freshman year at the University of Toledo where she is pursuing a degree in physical therapy. She began Girl Scouts in kindergarten and earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. New moms in a lower income bracket are still benefiting from her Gold Award project. She gathered donations and put together starter kits of much needed items for a newborn baby – wipes, diapers, and binkies are some of the items in the boxes. These kits are given away to families in need at the bi-monthly clothing drive held at Great Lakes Church in Lorain. Additionally, she created a donation bin that is placed at the entryway to the church so parishioners can donate items each Sunday. A special collection of funds was taken up at the kick-start of her project so the initial supplies could be researched and purchased. Members of the church are continuing her efforts because they truly believe in the idea. Outside of Girl Scouts, Angel is a proud second generation member of the University of Toledo Rocket Marching Band and an active member of her new church home in Toledo. After undergrad, Angel plans on attending the grad school.



Molly Dubitsky, Independence
Sensory Activity Trail

Molly Dubitsky, a graduate of Independence High School, has been a Girl Scout for 13 years. She has earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Kids with disabilities are benefiting from her Gold Award project via music therapy. Molly designed, built, and installed five outdoor musical instruments for Camp Cheerful's Sensory Trail and created a stretch of trail that four of the instruments were placed on. She also designed, built, and installed an eye spy birdhouse board along a different trail. She collected donations by selling Girl Scout Cookies and quilts made by her grandmother and asked stores such as Home Depot and Sherwin-Williams for various materials. Outside of Girl Scouts, Molly was involved in marching band, National Honor Society, and Bio Society at school. After high school, she plans to go to Cleveland State University and major in occupational therapy.



Brianna Easterling, Canal Fulton
STEM Kits for Daughters of Veterans

Brianna Easterling is a sophomore at Ohio University and was a Girl Scout for 12 years. She has earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Her Gold Award project focuses on ensuring that young girls get introduced to STEM at a young age, hopeful that it would inspire them to think about entering the field in the future. With the help of family, friends, her team, and volunteers, she utilized SAM Center's Christmas program for veterans to collect and distribute out STEM kits to each of the girls in grades K-12 that went through. Thanks to the SAM Center, she will be able to make this project have a lasting impact, allowing for girls to continue to receive these kits on Christmas morning. Outside of Girl Scouts, she is a part of Bobcat Twirlers and teaching girls baton in her community. She plans to finish the next three years at Ohio University and graduate with a major in forensic chemistry and minor in biology in hopes of becoming a DNA analyst.



Grace Fricker, Perrysburg
High School Decompression Room

Grace Fricker, a 2024 graduate of Archbishop Hoban High School, was a Girl Scout for 12 years. She completed both the Ambassador Bliss Live It! Give It! Journey and the Senior Outdoor Journey. Mental health is only recently being prioritized in schools and Grace remembers seeing girls cry in the bathroom during classes. She recognized that there was a high level of stress at her school, but fewer resources to deal with that stress. To push the boundaries of student mental health issues and provide a safe place for students at her high school, Grace created a calming room in Hoban's Office of Student Services. Working with the school administration, interviewing experts at Akron Children's Hospital, and conducting research on environments that promote well-being, she converted a closet into a calming space with relaxing decorations and comfortable furniture. In addition, the space has resources to educate distressed students on how to develop healthy coping habits and tools to help manage their focus and stress. Grace was granted an award by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to fund this project. This project is modeled to be an area Grace wishes she had during times of distress. Outside of Girl Scouts, Grace was part of the Hoban Mock Trial Team and Theater. For a second summer in a row, she will be a resident counselor at Camp Christopher in Bath Township. Grace is currently a student at Bowling Green University, where she is studying nursing.



Sophie Gehring, Akron
Promote the Vote

Sophie Gehring is a rising senior at Revere High School and has been a Girl Scout for 12 years. She has earned the Silver and Gold Awards. Sophie's Gold Award project worked to bring voter resources and opportunities to the younger generation of voters. She developed a website that is posted on her school's home page that describes where, when, and how to vote. In addition, she coordinated with the Summit County Board of Elections to bring the Youth at the Booth Program, an opportunity for 17-year-old students to miss school in order to work at the election polls, to her school. Lastly, Sophie reached out to her representative in the Ohio House of Representatives to discuss legislation that would allow all 16-year-old Ohioans to pre-register to vote. Outside of Girl Scouts, Sophie participates in Speech and Debate, Band, Project Planet, Student Council, and Key Club. She plans to attend university next year and major in political science on a pre-law track.



Marissa Gerogolian, Strongsville
Zen Aid Kits

Marissa's Gold Award project focused on strengthening mental health, inspired by her personal experience with ADHD and the coping strategies that helped her succeed in school. She created a Zen Aid Kits, which included tip sheets, donated and homemade fidgets, and other calming tools. She distributed flyers to elementary and middle schools in Strongsville, all local Girl Scout troops, and Strongsville High School—inviting students to workshops and asking for donations of fidgets, pop-its, coloring books, and crayons. The community responded generously with donations. To support the event, she recruited high school volunteers—forming a Zen Squad. At her first workshop, Marissa led a presentation on the differences between anxiety and worry, offered coping tips, and facilitated hands-on activities including making stress balls and using the five senses to relieve stress. With leftover donations, she sent supplies to her aunt's daycare and later hosted a second workshop for a first-grade class in Cleveland, arranged through her former tutor.



Laura Hall, Canton
Sensory Room and Nursery Refresh, Storage Cleanout

Laura Hall, a rising senior at GlenOak High School, has been a Girl Scout for 12 years. She has earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Adults and children with autism are benefiting from her Gold Award project. Laura redesigned the nursery in her church to build a sensory room. She raised money to buy painting supplies and sensory items and then led a team of six people who volunteered their time and talents to help. This project will have a lasting impact as members of the community are invited to use the space however they need. In addition to Girl Scouts, Laura is involved at her church, as well as her school's marching, concert, and pep bands. After graduation, she plans on attending Kent State University where she will pursue a career as an elementary school teacher.



Sydney Harbour, North Canton
Jr. Eagles XC Program

Sydney Harbour, a graduate of GlenOak High School, was a Girl Scout for 13 years. She has earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. For her Gold Award, Sydney created the Jr. Eagles Cross Country Program and reinstated a kids race in order to service the fifth and sixth graders in her school district following her experience on GlenOak's Cross Country team. The program focused on building the participants' self-confidence, teamwork skills, and gave them the opportunity to make new friends through physical fitness. Each day of the program involved learning a new running skill, interacting with positive role models, a workout or run, and a fun game with their inner team squads. The program culminated with a kids race for the community at the Stark County Cross Country Championships. Sydney collaborated with her coach and teammates to make this happen and fundraised money for supplies and shirts. Outside of Girl Scouts, Sydney has been involved in 4-H, her church youth group, and her high school's cross country, swimming, and track teams. This fall, Sydney will be attending Baldwin Wallace University where she will study nursing and be a member of the swim and dive team.



Emily Heino, Canfield
Signs of a Cleaner Community

Emily Heino, an upcoming sophomore at The Ohio State University, has been a Girl Scout for 13 years. She has earned the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Her project aims to educate students at C.H. Campbell Elementary School about the seven principles of *Leave No Trace*. Emily installed the signs in the school's outdoor classroom and developed a curriculum for the teachers to use in exploratory periods. The project allowed her to directly interact with the students and jumpstart their education in environmental sustainability, which encouraged the students to enjoy time outside responsibly. In addition to Girl Scouts, Emily earned her Eagle Scout Award, was a member of her high school band and robotics team, and is continuing her service work through Ohio Staters, Inc. at college. She is pursuing a degree in biomedical engineering in Ohio State's Honors Engineering program, with a pre-veterinary minor and is employed by Philmont Scout Ranch as a ranger for the summer.



Anna Holthouse, Medina
River Bank Restoration and Nature Reflection Area

Anna Holthouse is a graduate of Medina High School and has been a Girl Scout for 13 years. She has earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. She is passionate about environmental sustainability and wanted to help her community and local environment with her Gold Award project. Anna removed invasive species from her church's creek and sowed Ohio Native Wildflower seeds in their place. In an effort to create a small area for the whole community to enjoy, she hand built two benches and spread stones around the top of the riverbank. Anna created a website to inform her community about environmental sustainability and encouraged documentation of the area to show growth over time. Outside of Girl Scouts, Anna plays the clarinet, is a varsity thrower on her track team, and is involved in many extracurriculars at her school. After graduation, she will attend Ohio State University to study environmental science and Spanish.



Sicily Horn, Louisville
Sustaining Louisville's Urban Forest

Sicily Horn is a 2024 graduate of Louisville High School. She was a Girl Scout for 12 years and has earned her Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Her Gold Award project was inspired by the loss of trees in her community due to disease and inconvenient placement. To address this issue, she organized a bake sale featuring homemade goods and secured generous donations from the Petitti Garden Center and the Grange Organization. Through careful planning and dedication, she successfully planted three trees in her local park, creating a sustainable and meaningful impact for future generations. Outside of Girl Scouts, Sicily was involved in the color guard for her high school's marching band and is currently working part-time at Unhitched Brewing Company. She is now attending the University of Akron, where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in social work with a minor in psychology.



Madolyn Kost, Kent
Hard Work Pays Off Bench

For Madolyn’s Gold Award project, she built three benches in honor of Mike Finley. Mike was a past golf coach at Theodore Roosevelt High School, but sadly passed away from cancer. In memory of him, Madolyn built three benches for the course with plaques that said his name. Her and her team also planted flowers for him, and she created a website to spread more awareness about cancer in general. With the website, she created a QR code and put it on the bench so people can scan it and learn more about the impacts of cancer as well as who Mike Finley was.



Makaela Lubrano, Berea
Catering Cares Program

Makaela Lubrano, a recent graduate of Saint Joseph Academy has been a Girl Scout for 13 years. She has earned her Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. After seeing firsthand the challenges that medically fragile families faced, Makaela’s Gold Award project focused on the mission of eradicating hunger for medically fragile children and their families. Makaela created a catering program under the umbrella of a non-profit organization based in Berea, The Maryssa’s Mission Foundation. The program provides a local children’s rehabilitation center with a healthy meal once a month with the hope of expanding to once a week within the next five years. With help from restaurants as well as the community, through monetary donations and fundraising in partnership with the Cleveland Monsters, Makaela was able to achieve her goal. Outside of Girl Scouts, Makaela was a varsity bowler, partook in her high school and local theater programs, was an Academy Ambassador, and in 4-H for 11 years. Makaela just finished her first year as an undergrad student at Cleveland State University where she is majoring in film and media arts with a minor in theatre.



Lucy Macejko, Strongsville
Sensory Garden

Lucy Macejko was a Girl Scout for 14 years. For her Gold Award project, she wanted to create a love of nature in youth to inspire them to continue to give back to the Earth. For her project, she put a sensory garden at her school, creating a lesson plan for the second graders as well as a hands-on learning experience and revamping a memorial garden at a local recreation center. She expanded her project to include local Girl Scout Daisies, helping them earn their Daisy Garden Journey. With the help of her team, they worked tirelessly to pull weeds, haul mulch and rocks, planting and cutting down shrubs and bushes, and adding elements of learning and reflection. Lucy received donations from local stores, community members, other Girl Scout leaders, and teachers in her school district to help fund the project. An elementary school teacher offered to take over the garden to ensure its sustainability.



Chloe Mance, Strongsville
A Book for Everyone

Chloe Mance, a graduate of Strongsville High School, was a Girl Scout for 13 years. She has earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Her Gold Award project sought to increase the availability of resources for children who have dyslexia. After writing a chapter book for young elementary school students, Chloe formatted it according to dyslexia-friendly style guides. With the help of her friends, she illustrated the book and recorded an audiobook edition of it. The audiobook and a free PDF of the book are available on the project’s website, in addition to other resources. Physical copies of the book were distributed to Strongsville’s five elementary schools and a local library. Outside of Girl Scouts, Chloe was involved in her high school’s academic trivia team, was vice president of her school’s chapter of the National Art Honor Society, and tap danced. Chloe is currently attending Oberlin College, where she is planning on majoring in art history and mathematics.



Cecelia Mascia, Chagrin Falls
ArtEd Corner

Cecelia Mascia is a rising sophomore at Sarah Lawrence College and was a Girl Scout for 12 years. She has earned the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. K-12 students interested in art can benefit from her art education database. Students seeking to supplement their arts education can use the free database to learn more about their interest. In addition students at St. Joan of Arc elementary and middle school can enjoy murals that encourage interest in art that have been painted around their school. Outside of Girl Scouts, Cecelia is a percussion performance major and also enjoys music composition. In the upcoming years, she hopes to hone her craft at Sarah Lawrence College pursuing a career in music.



Katie Mostoller, Copley
Bundles of Hope

For her Gold Award project, Katie created over 50 diaper bags for emergency foster families who were placed with children in quick turnaround situations. Each bag contained essential items such as diapers, wipes, pacifiers, bottles, blankets, bibs, and much more. She then created an instruction manual on how to craft these need-based diaper bags and gave them to a volunteer group at her place of worship. The members of her church have chosen to continue the project as one of their service initiatives annually. Her project made a big impact on the families that were able to benefit, and will continue to be of service to more families in the future.



Isabel Nerpouni, Chagrin Falls
Shade Tree Commission Web Page Project

Isabel Nerpouni is a graduate of Chagrin Falls High School and was a Girl Scout for 13 years. She has earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. She recently completed her first year at the University of California Berkeley as an intended film and media studies major. Isabel's Gold Award project remains a vital part in data collection, analysis, and storage for the Shade Tree Commission, an organization in Chagrin Falls that preserves the town's brilliant canopy. Her project reached completion with the help of Sophie Hill, fellow Chagrin alum, and Mrs. Nagano, former computer science teacher at Chagrin Falls High School. Both partners aided greatly in the composition and fulfillment of the project, attending meetings with representatives of the Shade Tree Commission alongside Ms. Nerpouni and dedicating their free time to the conservation of the natural world. Over the course of months, Isabel and Sophie utilized various computer programs and software to construct, design, and produce a website for the Shade Tree Commission. The completed application enables its members to store, manage, and access data referring to the quality, quantity, and wellbeing of the trees that they oversee in Chagrin Falls. Outside of Girl Scouts, Isabel practices martial arts, archery, and skateboarding in her free time. Entering her second year at Berkeley, Isabel plans to join a film club, pursue a minor in Spanish, mentor a Little Sister in her sorority, and start taking dance classes with her friends.



Megan Panchula Eastlake
Leadership Resources for GLR-OH-252 (Civil Air Patrol)

Megan Panchula, a rising sophomore at Miami University, was a Girl Scout for 14 years. She has earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Megan has been involved in the Civil Air Patrol for seven years, and future youth leaders in the organization benefit from her Gold Award project. She created a leadership manual for the GLR-OH-252 Civil Air Patrol squadron so that knowledge from graduating youth commanders could easily be saved and passed along to future leaders. She enlisted the help of current youth in her squadron to collect, organize, and format information that they thought would be most beneficial for future leaders. Outside of Girl Scouts and the Civil Air Patrol, Megan is involved in the Air Force ROTC program at Miami University. After graduating with degrees in both political science and strategic communication, she hopes to fully commission into the Air Force to continue to lead and serve her country.



Katie Reynolds, Waite Hill
Old South Food Pantry Volunteer and Client Organization

Katie Reynolds will be a sophomore at the University of Pittsburgh in the fall. She was a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned her Bronze and Silver Awards. She has lived down the road from a food pantry her whole life and saw that it was in need of help, which inspired her to take action for her Gold Award. With help from another church and the head of the food pantry, she was able to reorganize the way volunteering and clientele was done at the food pantry, make a new sign, and create a permanent monthly paper products drive with local churches. She has brought so many new people into the food pantry and allowed them to flourish with this extra help. Outside of Girl Scouts, she played volleyball, swimming, and tennis, and she was part of National Honor Society, Key Club, and Peer Leaders. She has been loving University of Pittsburgh and hopes to graduate with her degree in athletic training.



Grace Robbins, Twinsburg
Sleep Safe, Sleep Sound

Grace Robbins, an upcoming graduate at Twinsburg High School, has been a Girl Scout for 13 years. She has earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Parents and caregivers seeking information about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) benefit from her Gold Award project. Grace worked with Akron Children's Hospital and assisted in running Community Baby Showers to give parents and caregivers information about safe sleep. She created packets containing educational flyers, a teddy bear with her logo on the shirt, a onesie with "This Side Up" on the front and "This Side Down; Put Baby to Sleep on Back" on the back, and a sticker with her slogan "Sleep Safe, Sleep Sound." Grace also attended a Business of Babysitting class run by the Girl Scouts, where she taught a group of girls the ABCs of safe sleep, how to decrease the risks for SIDS, and how to safely assemble a pack-and-play. Grace put up her flyers around her community to spread the information further and had many local businesses display them. She created a project that will have a lasting impact on her community and the safe sleep environments parents create for their infants at bedtime. Outside of Girl Scouts, Grace is involved in many clubs at her school including Key Club, National Honors Society, the Lady Tigers Varsity Soccer Team, is Vice President of French Club, and is a member of the Twinsburg High School Orchestra. After graduation, she plans to attend West Virginia University where she will major in nursing with hopes to become a Pediatric RN.



Katelynn Roberts, Poland
A Look Back Through Poland Player's History

Katelynn Roberts is a graduate from Poland Seminary High School and was a Girl Scout for 10 years. She has earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Katelynn noticed the lack of acknowledgement and celebration in her school's theater department compared to other schools in the area. She wanted her town to be able to look back on previous theater productions and to go to more in the future. Katelynn collected pictures from past productions and sorted them by show to add to a website. Anyone is welcome to look through the pictures and previous members of the Poland Players are encouraged to send their own pictures to be added. Outside of Girl Scouts, Katelynn was a member of the Celebrate Team at her church and participated in marching, concert, and jazz band; Spanish Club; Interact Club; Theater; and she was also a part of her high school's golf team and academic challenge team. Currently she is attending Goucher College where she plays on the golf team and is majoring in history.



Irenne Scherer, Kent
Music in Nature

Irenne Scherer is 2024 graduate from Bio-Med Science Academy in Rootstown and is currently studying at Hiram College with a double major in environmental studies and biology. Irenne was a Girl Scout for 13 years and has continued on as an adult volunteer after becoming a lifetime member. Irenne earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards, along with PA, CIT, CIT2, and was a Jr. Counselor. Irenne's love for nature and young children helped to inspire their Gold Award project, "Music in Nature," located at the Brimfield Lion's Park. The project brought six different music stations and a sensory trail to the playground area for children to enjoy. Irenne obtained generous donations from the Brimfield Lowe's and Hometown Bank to support the funding for the seven different installations. When Irenne, aka Galaxy, is not singing songs and having fun as a counselor at Girl Scout camp, they are exploring nature as much as possible. Irenne's future plans are to become an ecologist.



Elizabeth Siembida, Leetonia
Gaga Ball Installation at Columbiana Schools

Elizabeth Siembida, a 2024 graduate of Columbiana Exempted Village Schools, started Girl Scouts in kindergarten. She has earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Elizabeth was inspired to update her school playground with a Gaga Ball pit, and after her classmates attended Camp Fitch and saw one they overwhelmingly supported that option through a schoolwide survey. From spaghetti dinners to grants, Elizabeth funded her project and built it with support from members in the community. She has since been recognized within the school for a project that has been greatly utilized by her peers. Elizabeth is in her final year of 4-H, works for GCXC Racing, and is training to be a pharmacy technician. She entered the ranks of lifetime member with Girl Scouts this past fall.



Gabriela Skomra, Hudson
Cultural Communities

Gabriela Skomra, an upcoming freshman at the University of Notre Dame, has been a Girl Scout for seven years. She has earned the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Gabriela identified a need for greater cultural and language education in her community for her Gold Award project. She ran a series of cultural programs at the Hudson Library with the help of her international friends. Kids learned about different countries and their cultures through presentations, food, crafts, games, and language. Her program will continue as an annual World Culture Fair at East Woods Intermediate School. In addition to Girl Scouts, Gabriela was involved in the marching band, jazz band, and pit orchestra, as well as the Life Teen program at St. Mary's church. This fall, she plans to major in accounting and economics with minors in Spanish and sustainability.



Josephine Smyser, Mentor
Exploring Engineering

Josephine "Josie" Smyser, a graduate of Beaumont School, was a Girl Scout for 13 years. She earned the Silver and Gold Awards. Candid and personal conversations with fellow students and engineers made Josie realize high school girls need a way to meet women in STEM careers, find answers to their questions, and gain the confidence needed to tackle academically rigorous STEM majors. She accomplished this by bringing together over 50 girls and women in Northeast Ohio from nine schools to collaborate and design a hybrid program that created meaningful connections, answered questions, and inspired the girls. The results supported the idea that when girls know professional women in STEM, they are more likely to have the confidence to pursue a STEM career and see themselves in those roles. Her work has been adopted by the Alliance for Working Together (AWT), which will replicate her model and continue connecting teen girls to women in STEM. Taped recordings of her sessions are available to Beaumont teachers on the Troop 70444 YouTube channel. In addition to Girl Scouts, Josie served as captain of the robotics team at Beaumont, Student Council Executive Board member, and president of several clubs. Josie was awarded the Allen Waddle Award from the Cleveland Leadership Center and named IB Biology student of the year at Beaumont. She won several awards at regional and state science fairs. Josie will attend the University of Notre Dame and pursue a degree in electrical engineering.



Olivia Ullner, Chagrin Falls
Eyes and Ears for Guatemala

Olivia Ullner is a graduate of Orange High School and was a Girl Scout for 11 years. She has earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Olivia was born in Guatemala and for her Gold Award project wanted to create a program benefiting children in her birth country. Guatemalan children face many impediments to obtaining an education with only 55% attending primary school and only 15% attending high school. Children who cannot see clearly or hear are even less likely to attend school and escape poverty. Olivia's project educated people in Northeast Ohio about the needs in Guatemala and barriers to education; collected and delivered nearly 800 eyeglasses/hearing aids to a medical clinic in Izabal, Guatemala; and provided an ophthalmoscope with 20 diopter lenses and long-range battery to the clinic to allow the doctor to treat rural patients who cannot get to the clinic. Since earning the Gold Award, the program has spread to five schools and collected an additional 700 glasses/hearing aids. Outside of Girl Scouts, Olivia enjoys ceramics, travel and learning about other cultures, and working out. In the fall, Olivia will attend the University of Alabama majoring in elementary education and minoring in American Sign Language.



Clover Wagner, Cortland
Community Box

For Clover's Gold Award project, they chose to build a community box and place it in front of their church. They were inspired to do this because their church is located in a food desert where some of the community members have to walk 45+ minutes to get to the nearest grocery store. The box provides the local community with free non-perishable foods, period products, and school supplies and hats and gloves during the appropriate seasons. In addition to building, painting, installing, and promoting a community box, they also created a website that shares further information about food deserts and the community box. They also made sure to canvas the neighborhoods surrounding their church to inform the community of the box's existence and purpose, doing so with an informative pamphlet they created and handed out.



Aubrey Winczewski, Westlake
Air Quality Awareness

Aubrey Winczewski is a graduate of Westlake High School and was a Girl Scout for 10 years. Local students and the community now have access to real-time air quality data thanks to Aubrey's Gold Award project. Aubrey worked with school administration and the company Purple Air to request a donation of an air quality monitor and install it outside her high school. The monitor connects to Purple Air's online map and the EPA's fire and smoke map to make the data accessible to the public now and in the future. Aubrey collaborated with her high school's Environmental Club to create educational resources for younger students and held an air quality awareness workshop with local fifth graders. Outside of Girl Scouts, Aubrey ran cross country and rowed throughout high school and was a member of National Honors Society. She is now attending Purdue University and majoring in environmental and civil engineering.

Thank you to our Gold Award Committee

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