



Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony



Saturday, June 20, 2026
2:00 - 4:30 PM

Greystone Hall
103 S. High 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.

Lauren Becker
Sophia Beohmerle
Lauren Brownley
Inaya Chowdhary
Sarah Christian
Erin Cole
Camryn Dennis
Sophia Dye
Lulu Emanuele
Madelyn Foerster
Morgan French
Addyson Gruden
Samantha Heider
Lengitu Hovanic
Katherine Hren
Alice Jones
Gabriella Kezdi
Brynn Krahe

Rayna Lambert
Sarah Miller
Heather Mohny
Zoe Nechvatal
Selah Nugent
Olivia Pajak
Mallory Petrick
Aleah Ries
Nadia Rodriguez
Baya Rojek
Skyler Smiechowski
Grace Snahnican
Amalia Thomas
Erin Till
Maylee Wetzel
Caroline Yeager
Kacey Yoe

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.

**Members may substitute for the word God in accordance with their own spiritual beliefs.*

Welcome

Welcome to the 2026 Girl Scout Gold Award Celebration. Today, we honor the exceptional Girl Scouts across Northeast Ohio whose leadership, vision, and service are creating meaningful change in their communities. The Girl Scout Gold Award recognizes not only achievement, but the courage and determination to turn ideas into action. These remarkable Girl Scouts have not only envisioned a brighter future, but have taken meaningful steps to make that vision a reality.

Through dedication, creativity, and perseverance, Girl Scouts have developed and led Take Action projects that address critical community needs. This prestigious award is earned by only five percent of eligible Seniors and Ambassadors nationwide. To earn the Gold Award, Girl Scouts identify a community need, develop a sustainable solution, and lead a project designed to create measurable impact. Their projects have fostered inclusivity, advanced environmental stewardship, and strengthened community programs throughout Northeast Ohio and beyond.

Girl Scouts who earn the Gold Award are not only making a difference today, but they continue to lead in their schools, careers, and communities long after their Girl Scout experience. According to the Girl Scout Research Institute's report, *The Power of the Girl Scout Gold Award: Excellence in Leadership and Life*, nearly all recipients report holding leadership roles in their everyday lives, while the overwhelming majority credit Girl Scouts with positively shaping their future and educational success.

Today we celebrate not only what these Girl Scouts have accomplished, but the leaders they are becoming.

Yours in Girl Scouting,



Sandra Reid

Sandra Reid
Chair, Board of Directors



M. Jane Christyson

M. Jane Christyson
Chief Executive Officer

Keynote Speaker



Tracy L. Carter

President and Chief Executive Officer, Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron

Tracy Carter is a distinguished healthcare executive and public policy leader whose career has focused on expanding access to care, advancing community health, and forging strategic partnerships that improve outcomes. She currently serves as President of the Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron.

The Foundation will advance regional health and wellness through philanthropic investment and grantmaking, and serve as the public monitor for the Health Assurance Transformation Company, helping to ensure compliance with its state purchase agreement.

Carter began her healthcare career in 1989 as an INROADS college intern at Summa Akron City Hospital. Following the completion of her undergraduate business degree and graduate training in health services administration, she returned to the organization as an administrative fellow and subsequently advanced into leadership positions spanning corporate projects, external affairs, government relations, and health policy. In 2015, Carter joined The MetroHealth System, where she helped align public policy strategy with organizational priorities to advance health coverage, access, and strategic growth. She returned to Summa in 2019 to lead the organization's government affairs and health policy portfolio.

Among her most notable accomplishments, she co-chaired a regional collaboration that helped 60,000 Akron-Canton residents obtain Medicaid coverage and partnered with Ohio health systems and clinical leaders to advance state policy requiring insurance coverage for dense breast screening, supporting earlier detection and treatment for patients across the state.

Carter has also demonstrated a longstanding commitment to higher education and civic leadership, including service as co-founder and inaugural president of The Ohio University Ebony Bobcat Network Akron/Canton Affiliate. Appointed twice by Governor Mike DeWine, she serves as a trustee of Stark State College and currently holds the role of second vice chair.

Her community leadership includes service as a former trustee of the Akron Community Foundation, where she also served as president of The Women's Endowment Fund Advisory Board. She is a co-founder and current chair of the Black Giving Collective Affiliate Fund. She has also served as chair of The Well Community Development Corporation board of trustees and co-chair of the Greater Akron Chamber Government Affairs Committee.

Her public service includes appointments to the Akron Civil Service Commission and the Summit County Nonpartisan Fair District Commission, and she was named co-chair of the Gun Violence Response Fund Advisory Committee.

Tracy is a member of The Akron Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and a graduate of the Leadership Akron and Leadership Cleveland programs. Carter's leadership has been recognized through numerous professional and civic honors, including designation as one of Modern Healthcare's Top 25 Minority Executives and recognition from the Akron Community Foundation, the Ohio University Ebony Bobcat Network, and Crain's Cleveland Business.

Among her many professional and civic accomplishments, Carter considers her role as mother to Jaylen and Brianna Johnson to be her most meaningful.

Welcome

Welcome

Fallon Pulley
*Director of Partnerships and
Outreach*

Pledge of Allegiance

Girl Scout Promise

Keynote Address

Tracy L. Carter
*President and Chief Executive
Officer, Trailhead Community
Health Foundation of Greater
Akron*

Presentation of Awards

M. Jane Christyson
Chief Executive Officer

Sandra Reid
Chair, Board of Directors

Closing



2025 Gold Award Girl Scouts



Lauren Becker, North Olmsted
NOSO TopSoccer

Lauren Becker's Girl Scout Gold Award project, *NOSO TOPSoccer*, focused on creating an inclusive and adaptive soccer program for youth with disabilities. In partnership with the North Olmsted Soccer Organization (NOSO) and TOPSoccer, a program within US Club Soccer, the initiative expanded access to local recreational opportunities. The program included five structured practices, culminating in a "Big Play Day" celebration. Each practice featured two one-hour sessions: one dedicated to wheelchair soccer and another for ambulatory athletes using crutches, walkers, or navigating other physical limitations. Lauren developed and delivered training sessions to ensure volunteers and coaches were prepared and understood how to appropriately support and engage athletes with disabilities. Additionally, Lauren prioritized community outreach, broadening awareness and participation beyond North Olmsted to neighboring communities.



Sophia Beohmerle, North Olmsted
The View From Down Here

Sophia Beohmerle is a graduate of North Olmsted High School and dedicated 12 years to Girl Scouts, earning her Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Motivated by her personal experiences, Sophia developed a passion for education and open dialogue surrounding disability awareness. For her Gold Award project, Sophia created and delivered a comprehensive presentation focused on disability etiquette and the lived experiences of individuals with disabilities. She presented to multiple city departments, schools, and the district's board of education. Each presentation concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session, encouraging thoughtful discussions. During high school, Sophia was actively involved in mock trial, National Honor Society, and Key Club. Sophia plans to continue her undergraduate studies at Cleveland State University and aspires to attend law school.



Lauren Brownley, Hudson
Youth Adaptive Lacrosse

A senior at Hudson High School, Lauren Brownley has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and has earned the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Inspired by her passion for lacrosse and inclusion, Lauren created a *Youth Adaptive Lacrosse* program in Hudson to provide opportunities for athletes with disabilities to participate in the sport. She organized and led free clinics using adaptive equipment, partnered with high school players as volunteers, and worked with USA Lacrosse adaptive programs for guidance. To ensure long-term impact, she collaborated with Hudson High School so equipment and practice plans can continue to be used in physical education classes. Outside of Girl Scouts, Lauren plays lacrosse, spends time in the music department, is active in her church community, and works as a server at Aladdin's. This fall she plans to pursue a career in physical therapy and will attend either Marquette University or The Ohio State University.



Inaya Chowdhary, Moreland Hills
Muslim Business Directory for Northeast Ohio

Inaya Chowdhary, is an upcoming sophomore at Case Western Reserve University and will be pursuing studies in medicine and healthcare. She earned her Girl Scout Gold Award in 2025. Inaya was inspired by conversations within the Muslim community that revealed a difficulty to find Muslim-owned or Muslim-friendly businesses. For her Gold Award project she created an online directory that connects residents to local businesses, services, and resources. Inaya conducted extensive research, collaborated with community leaders and organizations, built the website, and developed a sustainability manual to ensure the directory continues beyond her involvement. Her project strengthened community connections, increased accessibility to trusted resources, and serves as a lasting tool for civic engagement and education. In addition to Girl Scouts, Inaya is deeply involved in her community and is passionate about service-driven leadership. She plans to continue combining community advocacy with her interest in medicine and healthcare throughout college.



Sarah Christian, Independence
Geocaching Courses at Camp Manatoc and Camp Butler

Sarah Christian, a 2025 graduate of Independence High School, was a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. For her Gold Award project, she promoted outdoor exploration and well-being through geocaching. She led volunteers to install 11 geocaches at Camp Butler and 17 at Camp Manatoc in Peninsula, Ohio—locations meaningful to her from her time in Scouts BSA Resident Camp. She created a maintenance manual, donated GPS units, and supplies to sustain the program. Sarah also hosted workshops for Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA, including a Geocaching Merit Badge session. Participants showed strong enthusiasm, with many gaining awareness of the benefits of time outdoors. Camp leadership plans to continue the program using her materials. Sarah earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2024. Sarah is studying Theater Arts at Cuyahoga Community College and aims to become a prop artisan.



Erin Cole, Chagrin Falls
12 Step Meditation Garden

Inspired by a desire to address pressing community needs, Erin's Girl Scout Gold Award project focused on raising awareness for mental health and addiction in Geauga County. After identifying behavioral health as a top priority in the 2023-2025 Geauga County Community Health Plan, Erin partnered with the Red Tulip Project to support women in recovery at the Monarch Meadow Recovery Home. Building on prior volunteer experiences, she helped advance the development of a unique, butterfly-shaped healing garden designed to support recovery, reflection, and personal growth. The space will include walking paths and 12 unique stations representing the principles of the Alcoholics Anonymous recovery process. Through research, community engagement, and presentations to local groups, Erin promoted awareness of addiction support resources and the benefits of time in nature for mental wellness. This innovative space provides a peaceful retreat for those in recovery, their sponsors, and loved ones impacted by addiction.



Camryn Dennis, Avon
The Card Yard

Camryn Dennis, a graduate from Avon High School and has been a Girl Scout for 12 years. She has earned her Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Camryn created a card stand within Avon Oaks Nursing Home to address financial and mobility barriers and encourage connection-building among nursing home residents. She engaged volunteers from school clubs, fellow Girl Scout troops, and Cleveland Clinic Hospice to create hundreds of handmade cards. Residents and visitors are invited to take a card and write messages of encouragement for loved ones or others in need of connection, fostering meaningful interaction and kindness within the community. Beyond Girl Scouts, Camryn is a cross country runner, president of her school's American Sign Language Club, and a Blood Cancer United Student Visionary. She plans to study biology and Spanish on the pre-dental track at The Ohio State University as a Stamps Eminence Scholar.



Sophia Dye, Warren
Lordstown Pantry Box

Driven by a strong sense of community and compassion for others, Sophia Dye, an upcoming graduate of Lordstown High School, earned her Girl Scout Gold Award in 2026. Sophia recognized that many families in her small town face food insecurity but may lack access to traditional food pantries or feel uncomfortable seeking assistance. For her Gold Award project, *Lordstown Pantry Box*, she designed, built, and installed a community pantry box that provides free, non perishable food and essential items to anyone in need. Sophia collaborated closely with local leaders, the parks department, and community volunteers, and she organized donation drives to keep the pantry stocked and sustainable. Her project has increased awareness of hunger in her community while offering dignity, accessibility, and ongoing support to local families. Outside of Girl Scouts, Sophia enjoys giving back through hands on service and community involvement. She plans to continue serving others and building stronger communities as she moves forward after graduation.



Lulu Emanuele, Akron
Donation Drive: For Fellow Students in Need

Lulu Emanuele, a senior at Firestone High School, has been a Girl Scout for 14 years and has earned the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. For her Gold Award project, Lulu organized a hygiene product donation initiative to support students at Firestone Community Learning Center. The project collects essential items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, menstrual products, soap, and other personal care supplies, which are distributed to students in need. In addition to providing resources, the initiative raises awareness about the importance of hygiene, particularly for students facing economic or social challenges. Designed as a sustainable effort, the drive will continue year-round through leadership by the Firestone Ambassadors. Beyond Girl Scouts, Lulu is active in the Ambassadors program and previously served as president of Firestone's GSA and Art Honors Club. Following graduation, Lulu plans to attend Kent State University to pursue a double major in psychology and art.



Madelyn Foerster, Chagrin Falls
Dance Accessibility Curriculum and Seminar Facilitation

A graduate of Kenston High School, Madelyn Foerster has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and has earned the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Inspired by her passion for dance, Madelyn developed a Gold Award project focused on creating movement-based resources to support individuals with ADHD, autism, and Alzheimer's disease.

In partnership with the Metzenbaum Center and her advisors, she designed a structured curriculum and produced instructional videos demonstrating exercises that promote engagement and well-being. Madelyn assembled a collaborative team, including dancers, a videographer, and an editor, and engaged fellow Girl Scouts to support the project. Outside of Girl Scouts, Madelyn is involved with Cleveland City Dance and performs in a woodwind ensemble at the Aurora School of Music. At school, she serves as first-chair bassoonist, speech captain of the Speech and Debate Team, squad leader in the marching band, vice president of French Club, and a member of the National Honor Society. She will attend Michigan State University to study speech pathology and linguistics.



Morgan French, Kingsville
Buckeye Band Booster Concession Safety Improvements

Morgan French, a 2025 graduate of Edgewood High School, has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned the Girl Scout Silver and Gold Awards. For her Gold Award project, Morgan combined her eight years in band with her commitment to service to support music education. She raised nearly \$10,000 in donations and grants to refurbish and

remodel the band's concession stand, contributing more than 240 hours to the project. Improvements included repairs, full repainting, new cabinetry and countertops, and the purchase of equipment such as a popcorn machine, carts, a hot dog roller, a pretzel warmer, a double utility sink, and a refrigerator. The updated facility will support long-term fundraising for the music program, helping provide opportunities such as access to instruments, participation in honors bands, and financial assistance for students. In addition to Girl Scouts and band, Morgan participated in softball and was a member of the National Honor Society, Philanthropy Club, and Principal's Advisory. She now attends Cleveland State University, where she studies nursing and American Sign Language, and plans to become a pediatric nurse.



Addyson Gruden, Strongsville
Project 15:7

Addyson Gruden, a graduate of Magnificat High School, has been a Girl Scout since kindergarten and has earned the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. For her Gold Award project, Addyson created a sensory box to support children and adults with special needs at her parish, helping ensure they feel included during Mass. Inspired by

conversations with families and a community needs assessment, she researched effective sensory tools and collaborated with professionals to identify appropriate materials. She designed an accessible and engaging resource that supports participation in worship. By leading her team and managing the project from start to finish, Addyson combined leadership and service to create a meaningful, lasting impact. Outside of Girl Scouts, she is involved in campus ministry, a member of the varsity dance team, participates in several National Honor Societies, and serves as a faith mentor in her church youth group. She will attend Loyola University Chicago in the fall to study biology on the pre-med track.



Samantha Heider, Copley
Newspaper for Atwood Lake Area

Samantha Heider is a dedicated community leader, storyteller, and advocate who earned the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award by addressing the need for stronger community connection in Atwood Lake. Recognizing that a community's strength depends on effective communication, Samantha created *Tell Me Something Good*, a sustainable publication designed to bridge information gaps and foster a sense of belonging. She dedicated more than 120 hours to researching local issues, conducting interviews, and developing her skills in digital design. Samantha coordinated volunteers, partnered with local businesses, and established editorial guidelines to ensure the publication's long-term sustainability. Distributed in both digital and print formats, the newsletter highlights community events, local initiatives, and essential resources, ensuring accessibility for all residents. The publication reached more than 2,500 residents, increasing engagement at community events and strengthening connections across the area. Now a student at the Florida Institute of Technology, Samantha continues to pursue her interests in art and science and plans to study marine biology while building on her leadership and community-focused work.



Lengitu Hovanic, Strongsville
R.O.A.R Initiative

Lengitu Hovanic's Girl Scout Gold Award project, the *R.O.A.R. Initiative* (Reach Out At Recess), was created to improve inclusivity and reduce negative behaviors on elementary school playgrounds. This multistep initiative was implemented across all five public elementary schools in her district. The project included the installation of five buddy benches—four newly donated and one refurbished—to encourage peer connection. Lengitu also funded and installed blacktop games to promote active and inclusive outdoor play, as well as a *Peace Path* to support conflict resolution among students. In addition, she provided board games for indoor recess to encourage teamwork and social interaction. Through these enhancements, she created more inclusive and supportive environments where students can build friendships, practice positive behaviors, and feel a greater sense of belonging.



Katherine Hren, Olmsted Township
Worm Bin Vermicomposting System for School

Katherine Hren, a Saint Joseph Academy graduate and 13-year Girl Scout, has earned the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Her school community continues to benefit from her Gold Award project: a composting system using a worm bin. The system allows students, faculty, and staff to dispose of compostable food scraps, which are transformed by worms into nutrient-rich fertilizer for use in the school garden. Katherine collaborated with classmates and teachers to bring the project to life, creating both a sustainable resource and a valuable educational experience. Outside of Girl Scouts, Katherine participates in equestrian sports and enjoys writing. She is committed to attending Purdue University, where she will study accounting. She is currently traveling in South Africa with Girl Scout Travel Troop 71531.



Alice Jones, Bay Village
Nourishing Neighbors

A recent graduate of Bay Village High School, Alice Jones completed her studies in June 2026. Recognizing that food insecurity exists even in communities often perceived as affluent, Alice sought to address a frequently overlooked local need. For her Gold Award project, *Nourishing Neighbors*, she partnered with the St. Barnabas Community Cupboard to educate peers about hunger and its impact. She organized a district-wide food drive, led volunteers across multiple schools, and engaged students through creative outreach, including videos, and incentive-based campaigns. Alice also researched and secured grant funding to expand the pantry's capacity and support long-term sustainability. Her efforts provided thousands of food items and helped shift community perspectives, fostering greater awareness, empathy, and action around food insecurity.



Gabriella Kezdi, North Olmsted
Second Chance Supplies

Gabriella Kezdi, a graduate of North Olmsted High School, was a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Recognizing the impact of everyday waste in schools, Gabriella developed a Gold Award project focused on reducing waste and promoting recycling among students. She led a team to design and paint collection boxes for gently used school supplies, which were placed in art rooms across North Olmsted schools. At the end of the school year, Gabriella and her team collected the materials and partnered with a local organization to repurpose unused craft supplies. In addition to Girl Scouts, Gabriella serves as a tour guide at Ohio University, is president of the university's Circle K International chapter, and is a member of Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society in Education. She is pursuing a degree in early childhood education and plans to become a teacher.



Brynn Krahe, Chagrin Falls
Greyhounds from Australia

Brynn Krahe, a graduate of Kenston High School, was a Girl Scout for 13 years and earned the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Inspired by her weekly volunteer work with Greyhound Adoption of Ohio, Brynn became aware of the disparity between the number of retired racing greyhounds in Australia and the demand for adoptable dogs in the United States. For her Gold Award project, Brynn worked to connect Australian greyhounds with U.S. families. She raised funds by making and selling dog toys and treats and organized volunteer efforts to improve the adoption facility, completing projects such as clearing debris, spreading gravel, repairing fencing, and upgrading kennels. In collaboration with an Australian organization, Brynn helped coordinate the transport of eight greyhounds across more than 11,000 miles to North America. She also developed a detailed guide to support similar efforts nationwide. In addition to Girl Scouts, Brynn was a member of the National Honor Society and her school's bowling team. She plans to attend Miami University, where she will study biology on a pre-dental track.



Rayna Lambert, Bristolville
Monarch Mission

Rayna Lambert, a member of Girl Scout Troop 80101 for 12 years, is proud to be a Lifetime Girl Scout. She graduated as valedictorian of Bristol High School's Class of 2025 and is currently a junior at Hiram College, where she is pursuing a degree in biology with a minor in writing. Inspired by her lifelong passion for monarch butterflies and her love of reading, Rayna wrote and published a children's book, *Mission: Monarch*, for her Gold Award project. She also hosted educational programs for children and the broader community, partnering with the James H. Barrow Field Station and the Bristol Public Library to promote awareness and conservation of monarch butterflies. Outside of Girl Scouts, Rayna participated in 4-H for 11 years, showing dairy and specialty goats, and enjoys spending time on the farm, writing short stories, and volunteering in her community. After earning her degree, she plans to pursue a career in wildlife conservation and public education.



Sarah Miller, Chagrin Falls
Camp Ho Mita Koda Art Cabin Storage Upgrade

A senior at Kenston High School, Sarah Miller has been a Girl Scout for 10 years and has earned the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Her Gold Award project supports Camp Ho Mita Koda by improving organization and accessibility within the Art Cabin. Sarah designed and constructed a storage system with clearly labeled tools to help staff and campers locate supplies efficiently. She also secured donations, purchased new art materials, and provided a cart for organizing cardboard resources. Her project provides a lasting impact by enhancing both functionality and accessibility within the space. Sarah is also active in her school's band and French Club. She will attend the University of Dayton, where she will study mechanical engineering with a minor in aerospace engineering.



Heather Mohnney, East Palestine
East Palestine High School Shot-Put Renovation

A Girl Scout for 12 years, Heather Mohnney has earned the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. She is an upcoming sophomore at Youngstown State University, where she studies biology as a member of the Sokolov Honors College and the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program. For her Gold Award project, Heather improved conditions at the East Palestine shot-put area by advocating for proper gravel pathways and constructing a structure that provides seating, storage, and shelter. Her work benefits both current track and field athletes and visiting teams. Inspired by her experience as a former team member, Heather identified a need within her community and created a lasting solution.



Zoe Nechvatal, Olmsted Falls
Judean's Sensory Garden

Zoe Nechvatal, a graduate of Olmsted Falls High School, has been a Girl Scout for 12 years. When her troop disbanded after achieving the Girl Scout Bronze Award, she continued independently as a Juliette, ultimately earning both her Silver and Gold Awards. For her Gold Award project, Zoe used cookie proceeds to install a hydroponic garden system in the activity room at her grandmother's retirement community, Rockport. Through "Judean's Garden," she also created personalized sensory boards to support residents experiencing cognitive decline, fostering engagement and connection. The project provides residents and staff with access to a hands-on gardening experience that produces fresh harvests with no food-waste miles. In addition to Girl Scouts, Zoe was a member of the National Honor Society and is involved in the Life Teen program at her church. She now attends Miami University, where she studies business at the Farmer School of Business.



Selah Nugent, Ashtabula
Theater Sensory Bags

Selah Nugent is a homeschool graduate and has been a Girl Scout Daisy through Ambassador, creating lasting memories along the way. For her Gold Award project, Selah developed sensory bags for her local art center and theater to support individuals who experience sensory challenges in public spaces. Inspired by her own experiences and those within her community, Selah recognized that loud environments could limit the ability to enjoy theatrical performances. She secured donations from local businesses, collaborated with fellow Girl Scouts, and consulted community members passionate about supporting neurodiverse individuals to ensure the bags met a variety of needs. The sensory bags help create a more inclusive environment, allowing more individuals to comfortably enjoy performances. Selah enjoys volunteering with her local Girl Scout Troop 80014, painting, and pottery. She is active in her church in Cleveland, Ohio, and plans to pursue a career as a cosmetologist.



Olivia Pajak, Avon
Avon Eagles Garden Club Compost Project

Olivia Pajak, a 12-year Girl Scout and senior at Avon High School, has earned the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Students at her local elementary school benefit from her Gold Award project, which promotes sustainability through composting. Olivia designed and implemented a composting system within the school garden, where students grow produce and flowers. She created a compost tumbler using recycled materials, allowing garden waste to be transformed into nutrient-rich soil. She also led educational sessions to teach students about sustainability and composting practices. Her project provides a lasting environmental resource and encourages students and staff to contribute food waste to the composting system. In addition to Girl Scouts, Olivia participates in varsity track and cross country and serves on Avon's Tree Commission. She plans to attend The Ohio State University, where she will study microbiology.



Mallory Petrick, Cortland
HUM Preschool Recycling Program

Mallory Petrick is a dedicated Girl Scout who completed her Gold Award project with a focus on sustainability through education. Recognizing the importance of building environmental awareness early, she designed and implemented a recycling program at a local preschool. Her project included installing accessible collection bins and leading engaging lessons to help young students understand recycling and environmental responsibility. While her final total reached ninety pounds, just below her target, Mallory viewed the project as a success. Students began reusing paper scraps for smaller tasks, reducing waste. This shift demonstrated a broader understanding of sustainability and encouraged lasting environmental responsibility.



Aleah Ries, Orrville
Life Jacket Station

Aleah Ries developed her Girl Scout Gold Award project after recognizing a critical safety need at East Harbor State Park. Inspired by her family's annual visits, she observed that many visitors lacked access to life jackets, limiting their ability to safely enjoy the water. Aleah worked with park officials to design and install a life jacket loaner station near the boat docks. She researched durable materials, collaborated with contractors, and led construction with support from park staff and volunteers. The completed station provides accessible life jackets that visitors can borrow and return, improving safety for all. Since its installation, the station has been widely used and supported through community donations. Aleah's project has created a lasting solution that promotes water safety and expands access to recreational opportunities.



Nadia Rodriguez, Akron
Unified Family Adventures

Nadia Rodriguez created her Girl Scout Gold Award project to increase inclusive opportunities for families with and without individuals with intellectual disabilities. She organized and implemented one inclusive field trip per semester, bringing together families to foster connection and shared experiences in a supportive environment. Each field trip included both types of families, creating opportunities for meaningful interaction and community building. The initiative quickly gained strong participation, reflecting a clear need for inclusive programming within the community. To ensure sustainability, Nadia developed a detailed guide outlining how to organize and replicate the program and provided ongoing support for future organizers.



Baya Rojek, Avon
Taekwondo and Autism

Baya Rojek, an upcoming junior at Avon High School and a sophomore at Lorain County Community College, has been a Girl Scout for eight years and has earned the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Children with autism benefit from her Gold Award project, which explores the positive impact of martial arts. Baya organized and led a clinic at her Taekwondo studio after researching the benefits of the sport for individuals on the autism spectrum. She recruited three additional studios to expand the initiative, increasing awareness and access to inclusive programming. Beyond Girl Scouts, Baya is pursuing her fourth-degree black belt in Taekwondo and honing her talents in art and animation. She plans to pursue a career in animation or psychology.



Skyler Smiechowski, Wadsworth ***Trail Markers***

Skyler Smiechowski earned her Girl Scout Gold Award by improving the Wadsworth trail system, creating a more informative and user-friendly experience for the community. Recognizing that existing historical markers had faded and were inaccurately placed, she partnered with the Friends of Wadsworth Trails and local historians to restore and enhance the trail experience. Skyler designed and installed new UV-resistant historical signs, ensuring they were accurately positioned near the landmarks they describe. She also added mileage markers to help walkers, runners, and cyclists track their distance. Over the course of more than 115 hours, she coordinated community partners, secured more than \$5,000 in funding, and led volunteers in completing the installation. Her project provides a lasting resource that improves accessibility, education, and recreation for trail users. Skyler plans to attend Ohio University to study wildlife biology, with a focus on conservation.



Grace Snahnican, North Olmsted ***Pages for Possibilities***

Through her Girl Scout Gold Award project, *Pages for Possibilities*, Grace Snahnican worked to increase access to books and promote literacy in Northeast Ohio. Recognizing barriers to reading access in her Cleveland community, she developed a project that addressed both book availability and awareness. Grace organized community-wide book collection efforts, gathering more than 1,200 children's books for donation to the Cleveland Kids' Book Bank. She also installed a Little Free Library at a neighborhood recreation center, ensuring ongoing access to reading materials. To extend her impact, Grace led educational sessions with younger Girl Scouts, teaching them about literacy challenges and the importance of service. Her project created lasting resources while inspiring others to support educational equity.



Amalia Thomas, Chagrin Falls ***SU 773 Shed Refurbishing, Stocking, and Organizing***

Amalia Thomas of Troop 70823 earned her Girl Scout Gold Award by transforming an abandoned shed at Christ Presbyterian Church in Chesterland, Ohio, into a centralized storage facility for Service Unit 773. Before her project, equipment for more than 400 Girl Scouts and volunteers was stored in multiple locations, making it difficult to access and maintain. Amalia led efforts to restore the structure, coordinating more than 30 volunteers to clean, repair, and repaint the shed while improving its durability and surroundings. She then organized the interior and created a check-in and check-out system to ensure equipment can be easily located and returned. Amalia partnered with community organizations and secured resources to complete the project. Her work created a lasting, efficient solution that strengthens support for Girl Scouts across the service unit.



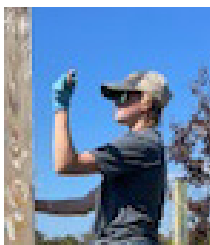
Erin Till, Avon
Hospital Ceiling Tile Art

Erin Till, an upcoming graduate of Avon High School, earned her Girl Scout Gold Award in 2026 by combining her passion for art with a commitment to improving patient experiences. Inspired by her own time as a hospital patient, Erin recognized how environment can impact emotional well-being. For her Gold Award project, *Hospital Ceiling Tile Art*, she transformed plain ceiling tiles into bright, calming artwork for imaging rooms, waiting areas, and wound care spaces at University Hospitals. Erin organized volunteers, collaborated with hospital staff, and managed each stage of the project from design to installation. Her work demonstrates how creativity can support healing and human connection. Outside of Girl Scouts, Erin enjoys creating art and participating in gymnastics.



Maylee Wetzel, Norwalk
Inspiring Young Softball Players

Maylee Wetzel's Girl Scout Gold Award project addressed self-esteem and confidence among young girls by promoting participation in softball. Inspired by her own experience she recognized the positive impact athletics can have on mental, physical, and emotional well-being. She enhanced the team environment by painting the dugouts and creating a mural to remind players that they are valued and belong. Maylee also created and shared a flyer highlighting the benefits of softball for overall well-being. Her efforts helped increase participation in youth softball programs and created a more welcoming and empowering environment for players, encouraging them to build confidence and lasting skills.



Caroline Yeager, Russell Township
Munson Township Rain Garden Restoration and Education

Caroline Yeager, an upcoming senior at West Geauga High School, has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and has earned the Bronze and Silver Awards. For her Gold Award project, she restored a rain garden at Munson Township Park. Caroline partnered with a landscape architect to select appropriate native plants and created a planting plan. She worked with local organizations and community members to remove invasive growth, install over 120 new plantings, and more than 14 cubic yards of material. Caroline secured funding through grants, fundraising, and donations, demonstrating strong project management and leadership. Her work created a sustainable and visually appealing community space.



Kacey Yoe, Massillon
Self Love and Mental Health Awareness

Kacey Yoe, a Girl Scout of 13 years, has demonstrated a deep commitment to community, compassion, service, and has earned the Bronze and Silver Awards. For her Girl Scout Gold Award project, FindYourCalmSpace, she created a free, accessible mental health resource designed specifically for teens and young adults. Recognizing the challenges many young people face in accessing reliable, stigma-free mental health support, Kacey developed a website featuring research-based information and practical coping tools. These include grounding exercises, journaling prompts, and mindfulness activities designed to help manage stress and build emotional wellness. Kacey shared the resource with local schools and community organizations to ensure ongoing impact long after her Gold Award journey has ended.

Thank you to our Gold Award Committee

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**Congratulations Girl Scouts,
from GSNEO!**





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