

Celebrating Those Who Have Earned the Highest Achievements in Girl Scouting

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Mechanics Hall Worcester, Massachusetts



Honoring our Class of 2023 Gold Award Girl Scouts and Silver Award Girl Scouts



OUR MISSION

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

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

One girl can make a difference; together we can change the world.

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts is committed to building a robust organizational culture where diversity, equity, and inclusion are at its core. We denounce racism, violence, injustice, and inequity. We strive to ensure that ALL who engage in this community are valued and recognized, and that they find a true sense of belonging.

Join us in creating welcoming spaces that seek to empower and engage youth and adult members to be authentic partners in this endeavor.

THE 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.

THE 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.

MAKE NEW FRIENDS

Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver, and the other's gold. A circle is round, it has no end. that's how long I want to be your friend.



AUARD CEREMONY

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Mechanics Hall Worcester, Massachusetts

Presentation of Honorees Kelsey Aggrey, Emcee

Opening Ceremony Shrewsbury Troop #11087

Welcome Kelsey Aggrey

Opening Address Patricia Hallberg, GSCWM CEO

Board of Director Address Carla Carten, Member at Large

Keynote Address Shaitia Spruell, Executive Director of the

Massachusetts Commission on the Status

of Women

Presentation of Awards Patricia Hallberg

Carla Carten

Closing Ceremony Shrewsbury Troop #11087

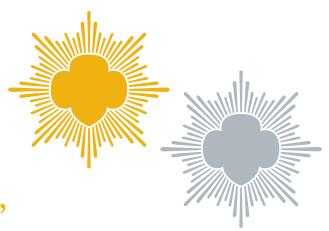
We would like to give a special

thank you to our Gold and Silver

Ceremony sponsors:

Glickman Kovago & Jacobs

Workers Credit Union



Dear Gold Award Girl Scout,

Congratulations on your extraordinary achievement in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn!

Today, we celebrate your accomplishments as the culmination of your Girl Scout Leadership Experience. You have demonstrated dedication to empowering yourself and improving your community. You are now part of the legacy of impressive Girl Scouts who have been making meaningful, sustainable change in their communities and around the world since Girl Scouting began in 1912.

You are a source of pride for the adults who have watched you grow and excel, and a role model for others in your community.

Many of you are graduating from high school, and we hope you will remain a part of our sisterhood by becoming an adult member. Wherever you go next, your Girl Scout experience goes with you. And your Gold Award sets you apart as a confident leader and visionary change maker.

You are the embodiment of the Girl Scout mission: a young woman of courage, confidence, and character, who makes the world a better place. We look forward to seeing what you will do next and how you will fulfill the pledge you have taken so often, "to live by the Girl Scout Law."

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Patricia Hallberg

Chief Executive Officer

Jennifer Johnson President/Chairwoman

Congratulations to our 2023 Gold Award Girl Scouts

Gold Award Girl Scouts are the dreamers and the doers who take "make the world a better place" to the next level. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the mark of the truly remarkable—proof that not only can she make a difference, but that she already has.

Seniors and Ambassadors who earn the Gold Award tackle issues that are dear to them and drive lasting change in their communities and beyond. Think of the Gold Award as a key that can open doors to scholarships, preferred admission tracks for college, and amazing career opportunities.





GABRIELLE BOURASSA* · Hudson

Camp Woodhaven Woodlands

Gabrielle's desire was to give back to a community that had given so much to her. After consulting with the director of Camp Woodhaven in West Boylston, Gabrielle set out to restore a soggy camp trail often inaccessible due to standing water. Gabby facilitated the construction of two ten-foot bridges to place on the trail. She created hand-painted, poster-sized signs of local animals and plants that campers could find on the trail with fact sheets about the animals with the hope that the kids who walk the trail will be able to better appreciate the nature around them.

Girl Scouts taught me many valuable life lessons and gave me a family that I know I can always go to.

After a 4-week internship this summer at Tufts Medical School, Gabby plans on attending college studying pre-med and computer science.





HOPE CLARK* • Agawam

Every Book Has a Home

Books serve as a source of comfort for Hope and a desire to provide others with that comfort helped fuel her project. Two thousand books were collected and distributed among two schools serving a total of 800 students. Coming from a household of two educators, she was passionate about and understanding of the value of education and wanted others to feel that as well. Through distributions, getting to meet students in person, and book box drop-offs, she was able to distribute the collected books while also providing education and the opportunity for students and their families to sign up for a local public library card.

Girl Scouts has played a large role in shaping who I am today. After joining, the organization grew with me as I got older. Through the organization I was able to grow my confidence and independence, all while continually being surrounded by a supportive community.

Hope will attend Boston College in the fall majoring in business management and leadership.



NATALIE DA CUNHA* · Milford

Resolving Racism at its Roots

For her project, Natalie chose to address the issue of whitewashing in public education. Natalie wanted to create a unit in her middle school's curriculum that provided a more realistic, comprehensive, and honest understanding of our country's history of racism. She brought her idea to the school system and worked with the school's instructional coach and teachers to develop the unit for the curriculum, which included literary, written, and culminating art projects for the 8th-grade students. Natalie joined with the teachers during teacher work days to give input on components and materials, and as a team, they created the unit that was piloted last year and put into full use this school year.

I believe education is a key component to understanding each other, each other's histories, and how to make the world better as we move forward.

Natalie will attend Bridgewater State University in the fall.





KATARINA FECHNER* · Worcester

Creativity to Calm

Katarina focused on bringing attention to mental health struggles through education on expressive therapy, and specifically, visual art therapy. Born out of the stress and anxiety of the pandemic, Katarina stumbled upon the calming effect of doodling mandala-like shapes. Finding the habit so soothing, she researched art therapy, interviewed art and expressive therapists and professors, and wrote a book titled *Creativity to Calm*. She outsourced the prompts for the book to individuals across her community to add example pictures and testimonials, posted this book online for free, and distributed posters around her community with a QR-code link to the book.

Girl Scouts has been more than just a meeting every Wednesday evening or an activity to add to my college application. It has been my support system, my encouragement, and a space for me to grow since the second grade.

Katarina attends Colgate University as a member of the class of 2026 with a double major in Chinese and international relations. She hopes to attend law school.





ERIN FLYNN • Harvard

Accessibility in the Art of Theater

COVID-19 shutdowns took a toll on Erin's local theater. Once a community hub, the dormant building needed a lot of TLC. The Accessibility in the Art of Theater project was Erin's effort to restore a vibrant gathering space for a multitude of community functions. She gathered a team of volunteers and reached out to the wider community for donations of cleaning supplies and organization materials. Monetary donations funded two dumpsters, which were used for disposing unusable items, and in total, Erin's team removed about 5,000 pounds of clutter that included rotting wood and ruined costumes. In the end, the Accessibility in the Art of Theater project restored an accessible, functional, and safe place for productions to return.

Girl Scouts has always been an important aspect of my life. When I was younger, it was an opportunity to develop lasting friendships while completing various crafts and activities. As I got older, it was an opportunity to make changes in my community. Since first grade, Girl Scouts has shaped my perspective of the world. I hold some values, morals, and ethics higher because of my experience with Girl Scouts.

Erin has completed a full year at Wheaton College, though is planning to continue her biology and pre-vet track education else where this fall.



ISABELLA HESS* • Bolton

When I'm Worried

Isabella's Gold Award project consisted of making a children's picture book to help young children learn basic anxiety coping techniques, which teaches kids how to cope with anxiety in an age-appropriate and accessible way. Her own history with anxiety and her desire to become a therapist inspired the project. She wrote and published *When I'm Worried*, which is now available on Amazon. Isabella read her book to children at her local public library, where she gave out copies of the book to families and did basic anxiety coping activities with the kids. She fundraised to purchase additional copies of the book, which she distributed throughout the community.

Girl Scouts has been my most consistent extracurricular activity my whole life and has given me a lot of enrichment outside of the classroom.

Isabella is a rising sophomore at Mount Holyoke College and studying to become a therapist.





MADISYN KAIJALA* · Hubbardston Bring Back the Bikes

While working as a Counselor in Training (CIT) at a local camp, Maddie found an immediate need to help restore a bike program for campers of all ages and sizes. She repaired 60 children's bicycles, replaced broken helmets, and provided a bicycle shelter to keep the bikes protected from the elements. She created a bicycle and helmet safety checklist for future CITs and shared her bicycle and helmet safety sheets with multiple other Massachusetts summer camps with similar biking programs.

I wanted to earn my Gold Award because it provided me the opportunity to do a project that no one would've let me do on my own.

Maddie will be a high school senior in the fall with dual enrollment at Wachusett Community College.





MADELINE KAY* • Uxbridge Young Athletes Unified Sports Program

The Notre Dame Academy Young Athletes Unified Sports Program is a series of clinics designed to promote inclusion and bring individuals of all abilities together. Madeline implemented the Unified Sports Program to address the lack of opportunities and resources available for those with disabilities who don't have readily available access to sports programs. Madeline was driven to create a welcoming environment where individuals with disabilities felt safe to learn, grow, and be their best selves. She created a partnership with Special Olympics and led clinics with positivity and encouragement for young athletes, helping them know their disability is a beautiful aspect of their identity that does not solely define them, and that they were capable of achieving anything they set their minds to.

I have always been passionate about helping others. Understanding that many individuals with disabilities do not have the same opportunities or resources available to them inspired my Unified Program. I wanted to give these individuals a space to be themselves, share their stories, and grow in a welcoming environment.

Madeline will attend College of the Holy Cross in the fall majoring in neuroscience and sociology.



ARWEN KING* · Amherst

Free to be 83

Arwen's project title, "Free to be 83," was derived from the ideal type 1 diabetic blood sugar of 83 mg/dL. As a type 1 diabetic, Arwen's diet has always been a topic of interest to her. Before her diagnosis, she would often eat high-carb foods with few problems, but when she tried to continue these eating habits after her diagnosis, she discovered it was damaging to her body. For her project, she developed and wrote three recipes for low-carb meals that are accessible for anyone to make at home. She recorded, edited, and publicly published instructional videos on the meals, which had an accompanying pamphlet. She also taught "how to cook low-carb classes" with hands-on activities and educational materials to better spread awareness about the importance of dietary health.

This journey as a Girl Scout has been truly unforgettable, from beginning to end, and I have been inspired by so many brilliant women that have entered, and sometimes sorrowfully left my life. My hope for the future is optimistic, but it won't be without struggle. What I wish to inspire in others is the drive to not only move forward no matter how difficult things may look, but move forward with the passion to bring true change into this world, no matter how small that may be.

Arwen will attend Greenfield Community College in the fall with plans to transfer to a 4-year degree program in library science.





ALLISON KINGSLEY • Southwick

Cookie Rally Innovation

Allison paired her extensive Girl Scout cookie selling experience and an internship with the Springfield Thunderbirds to enhance the annual Girl Scout Cookie Rally for 2022 participants and future participants. Through surveys she created and brainstorming sessions she facilitated, Allison designed a ready-to-go activity guide for fun and engaging lessons intended to accentuate the cookie seller's experience. Utilizing her leadership skills and business management skills, she credits her project with providing her handson experience in the business world.

I truly believe this project was and will be the foundation of my success in my future career as a businesswoman.

Allison is pursuing a bachelor's degree in marketing at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.



SANJANA PULAPARTHI • Westborough Neuroscience and Mental Health Education

Recognizing that the topic of mental health is not mentioned often in middle school classrooms, Sanjana wanted to give children earlier exposure to the subject so they could be more prepared and informed. Sanjana held multiple workshops with middle school kids to educate about neuroscience and mental health. She had in-depth discussions with kids about their concerns about mental health. By teaching them about neuroscience, she was able to help them understand the science behind certain mental health issues. She created a website with all her research and the content she taught in the workshops so it is easily accessible to the public.

Always have an open mind when executing your project. New information has a way of surprising you in the strangest ways and having an open mind will help you absorb as much knowledge as you can so that you are able to pass it on to others to the best of your ability.

Sanjana will attend the University of Maryland, majoring in computer science.





KATHERINE ROMOSER* • Longmeadow Music Management

Motivated by the desire to help her school's music department and improve it for the students who come after her, Katherine set out to organize all the sheet music used in the program. Katherine created a functional cataloging system accessible to current and future band directors and staff with a user access guide.

Because of Girl Scouts, I have a lot more opinions and courage to speak up for myself.

Katherine will attend Western New England University to study biology. She'd like to be a paleontologist.





SOFIA SOARES* • Milford Little Free Library

Inspired by her love of reading, Sofia built and installed a Little Free Library in front of her town's local elementary school. She hosted a book drive and connected with her community to gather a wide array of books to give year-long access to students, families, and community members with an assortment from which to choose. She donated books to other Little Free Libraries, consignment shops, and public libraries. Her Little Free Library is connected to the world map of Little Free Libraries.

My favorite part of the project was reading to the kids in extended day and talking to them about ways reading could be fun for them and relate to their interests.

Sofia will attend the University of North Carolina Wilmington in the fall to study criminology.



CORA TAILLEFER* • South Grafton **Anxiety Helpers**

Lived experience inspired Cora's Gold Award project. Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder at an early age, Cora's project focused on helping children by creating sensory items to help restore calm during moments of anxiety. With the help of a team she led, Cora created a total of 220 sensory items which she donated to local schools and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy organizations, including Autism Allies and the Flutie Foundation. Cora included an informational pamphlet for caregivers discussing autism, anxiety, her own story, and why she created the different items.

Girl Scouts has allowed me to find my passion for helping people in my community.

Cora will attend the University of Rhode Island to study animal sciences and technology.





THERESA THOMAS* · Milford

Prayer Garden at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish

Theresa created a prayer garden at her church with a stone bench and pathway around the Mother Mary statue. Her goal was to provide a peaceful place for reflection in the outdoor area of her parish where people can sit and relax. She created a pamphlet with insight into how prayer can be used as a way to help cope with mental stress. She wanted to show her community the same amount of care that she received from them throughout her life.

Because of Girl Scouts, I have created unforgettable memories and lifelong friendships that I wouldn't have had otherwise.

Theresa will attend UMass Amherst in the fall, majoring in biology on the pre-PA track.



ABIGAIL VANN* · South Hadley Foxes, Bears and Coyotes... Oh My!

Well-meaning people in Abigail's neighborhood were feeding wild animals and attracting them to their yards, creating a dangerous situation for both people and animals. After consulting with her community's police chief and the furbearer expert for Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Abigail created a coloring book and interactive activity to help people understand how to live harmoniously with wild animals, focusing specifically on educating young children on how they can influence the adults in their lives. She created a library event to teach kids about bears, foxes, and coyotes, and her coloring book is online on the library website and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife website.

My favorite part of my project was interacting with kids, getting to see them so excited to learn about wildlife and share what they learned with the people around them.

Abigail will be a high school Junior in the fall.



AMELIA WRAY • Longmeadow

Longmeadow Community Gardens Improvement Plan

By Amelia's estimation, one of the lesser-known gems of Longmeadow is its local community garden, where all town residents are welcome to a free plot that leads to a thriving town garden. However, it lacked a surplus of pollinators. Amelia was granted a permanent plot and worked with a master gardener to select native perennial plants with the goal of attracting a variety of pollinators. In the spring of 2021, Amelia and her team planted the garden which has flourished since with non-invasive perennial plants, attracting more pollinators every

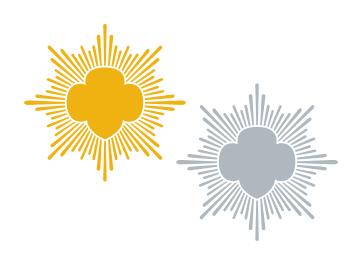
We only have one planet and it is our job as humans to protect nature. By advocating this to both my school and through the Girl Scouts organization, I hope to be a part of a much bigger revolution.

Amelia will attend Princeton University in the fall, hoping to study either operations research and financial engineering or mechanical and aerospace engineering.





*The Trifecta Award is an honor given to Girl Scouts for achievement in earning all three of the Highest Awards in Girl Scouts, the Bronze Award, the Silver Award, and the Gold Award. The Trifecta Award shows a girl's commitment to truly making the world a better place.



Dear Silver Award Girl Scout,

Congratulations Silver Award Girl Scout,

Your achievement is symbolic of your commitment to Girl Scouting and your community. You have demonstrated an ability to see the world around you, identify community challenges and initiate positive change. All of us at GSCWM are so very proud of you.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Patricia Hallberg

Chief Executive Officer

Jennifer Johnson

President/Chairwoman

Congratulations to our 2023 Silver Award Girl Scouts

When Girl Scout Cadettes focus on an issue they care about, learn the facts, and take action to make a difference, they gain the confidence and skills that will catapult them to lifelong success. It all adds up to the Girl Scout Silver Award—the highest honor a Cadette can achieve.



Allergy-Free Baking at Soul Fuel Café

Troop #64528: Mendon, Upton

Lyla Hill, Kate McCobb, Maya Evelyn Williamson The Soul Fuel Café in town didn't have allergy-free options available and Lyla, Kate, and Maya set out to change that! They worked with a professional chef to develop and test baked good recipes that are gluten, dairy, and nut free that the café could include as menu options. They donated an allergy-free portable kitchen, including a mini oven, all utensils, and accessories, as well as created an instructional video and held an in-person baking class for the café's bakers to ensure these options remain available. They also created a webpage that lives on the Soul Fuel Café's website, which includes allergy-free health information, recipes, a survey, and photos. Lyla, Kate, and Maya learned that time management can be challenging and developed a love of baking.

Bark Park

Troop #30853: Cherry Valley, Leicester

Natalia Kallio, Isabella LePoer, Hannah Martin, Dakota Zinkevich Natalia, Isabella, Hannah, and Dakota created a dog park in their town as a safe space for dogs to play and their pet owners to socialize. They built equipment, designed and acquired signage, and beautified the park with flowers. To help promote the new dog park, they held a photo booth at the town's harvest fair where people could take pictures with their pets and started a Bark Park Facebook page before turning the park over to a Bark Park Committee to care for the park moving forward. Natalia, Isabella, Hannah, and Dakota learned how to better communicate with governmental officials in their town and amongst themselves.

Brianna's Bat Boxes

Troop #40487: Easthampton

Brianna Chartier

Learning that the bat population in her area is decreasing and that bats are important for pollinating plants and controlling the mosquito and tick populations, Brianna decided to educate the community about the bat problem. She created a website with information about bats, the importance of controlling the number of insects that can spread communicable diseases, and how to build bat houses to increase their population. She built and installed bat boxes at Nonotuck Park, advertising her educational website using OR codes on the boxes. Brianna discovered that even though things don't always go as planned, there's always an opportunity to go back to the drawing board and regroup.

Bus Stop Bench

Troop #30502: Sterling

Emma Cooper

Ever since Emma was in elementary school, she has had to stand while waiting for the bus to come and noticed how dangerous it is when others sit on the curb. She created a safe space for children and parents to sit while waiting for the bus. She made a pamphlet to educate, encourage, and inspire the students to do the right thing and stay safe while they are waiting for the bus, which she distributed to the Evergreen Circle families and the bus company. Emma discovered that she loves helping her community and learned how to make good decisions.

Cancer Awareness Memorial

Troop #64528: Upton

Emerson Boissonneault, Ella Martin

Emerson and Ella honored those who have passed away fighting cancer and those who are battling cancer in their community by installing a Cancer Awareness Memorial at the Upton Fire Station. To increase cancer awareness and community involvement, they held an event during Upton's Heritage Day and invited members of the community to paint rocks with the names of loved ones who had passed or who are battling cancer and added them to the landscape of the memorial. The memorial started out honoring firefighters because of their increased exposure to many cancercausing carcinogens while fighting fires but ended up honoring the entire community. Emerson and Ella learned how to use a sawmill, as well as developed communication, time management, and budgeting skills.

Chocksett Library Remodel

Troop #30502: Sterling

Alicia Contreras, Kaelyn Perry, Maria Petronino

After being in school for four years and not understanding the process of checking out a book from the library, Alicia, Kaelyn, and Maria decided to reorganize and update their library. After surveying all of the students, they added new books and removed older books based on the results of the survey; this survey will be used yearly to keep the selection current and relevant. They then created a video educating the students on how to navigate the newly remodeled library and how to check out a book that the school will use for years to come. Alicia, Kaelyn, and Maria learned the importance of time management and not waiting for the deadline to get work done.

Community Composting

Troop #30993: Shrewsbury Claire Troy

Claire observed the amount of food that was being wasted every day by the students in the school cafeteria and decided to do something about it. She created a slideshow and signs that she brought into the 3rd-grade class to educate them on composting, and began a composting project at Paton School complete with the building of a compost bin. She further educated the community on the benefits of composting by setting up a table at two farmers' markets and building an additional seven compost bins for members of the community. Claire is now more comfortable writing emails, talking to adults, and has learned the importance of making plans early.

Graveyard Cleaning

Troop #11106: Northborough

Lana Ingerslev

While planting flags on Memorial Day, Lana heard a comment about how dirty the gravestones were, and how they deserved a little respect, and knew right away what she wanted to do to earn her Silver Award. After researching the proper way to clean the stones and the best materials to use, she hosted a scrubbing party and got to work. She created an instructional pamphlet including why it's important to maintain the gravestones, what she did to restore them, instructions on how to clean them, and information about some of the people who are buried in the cemetery that she distributed to the First Parish Universalist Unitarian Church, Trinity Church, and the Historical Society of Northborough. Lana discovered that she gained better situational skills and developed more confidence in herself when asking people of authority for help.

Healthy and Fun Family **Hiking Project**

Troop #64587: Wilbraham Allison Demetri

Allison hiked the entirety of the White Cedar Swamp and McDonald Nature Preserve to map out the trails and record information like steps, miles, and the amount of time it took to hike each trail as well as health information for hikers. She made and installed two "Take a Rock, Leave a Rock" boxes at each of the trailheads to provide an interactive element for hikers and their families. She made a video that informs the community about the map and the rock boxes on the town's trails, which are connected to Wilbraham Middle School. Allison developed her leadership skills by taking on the responsibility of organizing her project with her team members.

Heins Farm Trails StoryWalk

Troop #64510: Fiskdale Avery Adams

After seeing that the Sturbridge Trails Committee was looking for ways to bring in more visitors to the trails, Avery decided to take her love of reading and get creative. She designed a StoryWalk throughout the trails at Heins Farm using the book by Kobi Yamada, Maybe, and created a scavenger hunt with a QR code for children to complete as they read the book. She worked with the Joshua Hyde Library to ensure that the StoryWalk program continues with the Summer Reading program. Avery learned that it is important to collaborate with others.

Helping Bored Kids in **Waiting Rooms**

Troop #30760: Lancaster Melanie Gould

Learning to pivot during COVID was something Melanie wasn't expecting when she began her Silver Award project but soon learned that sometimes, change opens the door to better options. When children go to the UMass Memorial Emergency Room and need to wait, they often get bored and this can lead to more stress. She formed a team and put together colorful individual bags filled with mini coloring books, game books, crayons, materials for small crafts, and activity pads that are being used when children check into the ER. She provided how-to instructions and supplies to the ER and posted about the need for these activities to help others continue to supply the ER in the future. Melanie learned that if something doesn't end up working out, she just needs to find another way to make it happen.

Helping Puppies Become Better Dogs in the Community

Troop #40487: Southwick

Ruby Kadlewicz

When puppies don't receive the proper training and socialization, they can become adult dogs who act out when in the community. Ruby observed multiple obedience classes and worked with an obedience trainer to put together an educational tri-fold to be used during her presentation at the Labrador Retriever Club of Pioneer Valley Well Dog Clinic for breeders across New England. She built a teeterboard for the Sandy Meadow Farm Dog Obedience School to be used in puppy classes to help with socialization for years to come. Ruby learned that she has the tendency to think about giving up too easily, but that through hard work she has the strength to push herself and finish what she started.

Hudson High School Entrance Garden Renovation

Troop #66271: Hudson

Kristin M. Borella

The entrance to Hudson High School was not looking as inviting as it did when her grandfather opened the school many years prior and Kristin wanted to change that. Working with a local landscaping company and a very hands-on team, she began planning the new entrance to the school and the garden renovation. She made a presentation to the Rotary Club of Marlboro and secured ongoing maintenance from the Hudson Garden Club and a Hudson High School club. Kristin learned that a "project" by definition is a collaboration of people and activities to achieve a particular goal and that she definitely has a village of extremely dedicated people.

Information Kiosk and Trail Map

Troop #64587: Wilbraham Charlotte Powell

There was no usable map for the McDonald Preserve or Cedar Swamp as Charlotte found out during the pandemic when she made her way through the trails with trial and error. With the help of a local designer, she designed a map for the entire preserve with helpful information about hiking, a QR code that links to the website, and built a kiosk made out of all recycled materials. She partnered with the Open Space Committee to maintain the kiosk and update the map as needed with the digital map she provided and held a community hiking event. Charlotte discovered that sometimes she just has to do something when she knows she can do it, despite the doubts of others.

Low-Cost Healthy Cookbook

Troop #11572: Bolton Emily Beyranevand, Abigail Fantana, Allison Mortimer The girls of Troop #11572 volunteered at the Stow Food Pantry and learned that the patrons of the pantry needed to learn more ways to use the food that they were receiving from the pantry. After asking the community for low-cost healthy recipes, they made the recipes, tested them, made adjustments to them, and took photos of the food. They created and printed 100 cookbooks that were distributed to the pantry's patrons; they also provided a digital copy to the pantry. Emily, Abigail, and Allison learned how to plan a long-term project and that communication is key to making things happen.

North Star Family **Services Library Project**

Troop #30760: Lancaster Sarah Giger

To raise awareness of a local shelter and the lack of reading materials there, Sarah used her love of reading to host a bilingual story hour at the Thayer Memorial Library and created a brochure to further educate the community. She created a library at the homeless shelter with over 400 donated books in excellent condition from various genres for young children to teenagers. She contacted all local libraries to encourage them to donate extra books to the shelter after their annual library book sales to keep the selection new and current. Sarah learned how to work with others to organize events and that her organizational skills helped her accomplish her goals.

OAK: Our Amazing Kids Gift Drive

Troop #11087: Shrewsbury Marina O'Farrell

Marina noticed that most toy drives around the holidays were only aimed toward giving gifts to young underprivileged children. She decided that the teens in her community should have the same opportunity and worked with her school to hold the first teen toy drive to benefit the Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services. Her project will continue yearly with Special Ed and Student Council students facilitating the drive. Marina discovered that she can lead and direct attention to issues that are important to her and that she can accomplish a lot if she works hard and doesn't give up.

Outdoor Cooking for Kids, Families, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts

Troop #40487: Southampton

Lauren Benard

Creating a website with information geared specifically toward children that would help families to safely learn many different outdoor cooking methods, give kid-friendly recipes for each method, and emphasize safety considerations for each method was the focus of Lauren's Silver Award efforts. After creating two surveys, one for the general public and one for Girl Scout and Boy Scout troop leaders, she received nearly 1,000 responses and was able to gauge the interest and need of the website she wanted to create, and received additional suggestions on what to include like fire building, food storage, and Leave No Trace. She shared her website on many online pages and to all of those who responded to her survey. Lauren learned that it's okay if things don't work out and she needs to start over; sometimes the second start is the one that is successful.

Perennial Plant Power Garden

Troop #12652: Hadley Elizabeth Rotunno

Elizabeth planted a garden in the Hopkins Academy School courtyard made entirely of Massachusetts native perennials, complete with a bench and a pollinator sign. She wanted to ensure that Hopkins played an active role in Hadley's biodiversity and environment, educate the students and community about ecology and the environment, and provide a lively, uplifting outdoor space for students. Information about the garden is available in the school superintendent newsletter and on multiple school-affiliated Facebook pages. It has become part of the school's lesson plans about pollinators, native plants, and biodiversity and the Garden Club will continue to educate students and maintain the garden. Elizabeth learned to be the kind of leader she would want to have, even if it seemed difficult and would take a lot of work.

Pollinator Garden **Build with Bench**

Troop #64510: Fiskdale Alana Williams

Alana's love of flowers and how they help the environment was an easy match when the recreation director from the Town of Sturbridge Recreation Department reached out with the need to beautify an area of Sturbridge land. After getting the approval of the town board, she was provided the plot and budget to work with, and designed and installed a raised pollinator garden with a bench in the area of the Cedar Pond Recreation grounds. The Town of Sturbridge Recreation Department will manage the upkeep of the flowers in the garden. Alana discovered that she has very good critical and problem-solving skills and that she can be patient and assertive.

Pollinator Garden with **Native Plants**

Troop #30930: Shrewsbury

Amy He, Meena Lakshmanan, Aarya Patel, Shruti Sivashankar

Amy, Meena, Aarya, and Shruti discovered that their town lacked flower gardens with native plants that could help local pollinators thrive and reproduce, and focused their project on establishing a pollinator garden in their town park with plants native to our area. Their project addressed the decline and importance of pollinators, especially to the families who walk on the trails near the garden. They established a website to educate and encourage their community to plant more gardens with native plants or to add more native plants to their existing gardens. Amy, Meena, Aarya, and Shruti learned how to prepare a plot of land into an ideal area for plants to live in and how to make the garden look aesthetically pleasing and informative.

Read the Rainbow

Troop #30993: Shrewsbury Kaitlyn Minton

Wanting to bring awareness to the LGBTQ+ teen community of the available resources in the library and a safe space to explore, Kaitlyn's project first raised the funds to purchase new materials to add to the library. She educated the public about the resources through informational posters put up at the library, the local farmers' market, the community bulletin, the school announcement board, and Facebook postings. She held group reading opportunities for teens at the library where they read a book by Michael Bronshi, A Queer History of the United States for Young People, and held open conversations about the accomplishments and contributions of the LOBTO+ community. Kaitlyn learned that if she believes something strongly enough, nothing can stop her.

Remodeling Lewis Field

Troop #64526: Brookfield. East Brookfield

Lillian Egan, Megan Holm, Alison Regan

The girls of Troop #64526 wanted to beautify the pavilion and snack shack at their local recreation and sports park to make it more inviting and cheerful to the community. They sanded and stained the tables in the pavilion, restained the pavilion's back wall to cover up graffiti, and gave the snack shack a new blue base coat of paint. They then painted murals on all four sides of the snack shack, inviting the community to join them in painting the Community Garden Handprint mural together. Lillian, Megan, and Alison felt like they were part of something bigger when the community participated in their project.

Removal of Invasive Plant Species and Planting of Native Trees and Plants at **Keves-Parker Park**

Troop #34015: Pepperell

Elisea Gutierrez

The goals of Elisea's project were to create a place for her community to be able to spend time and enjoy the outdoors, to create a better environment for the ecosystem, and to increase the biodiversity. Coordinating with the local Invasive and Native Plants Committee (INPAC), she made a permanent change to reduce the number of invasive plants within the Keyes-Parker Conservation area and replaced them with native plants, trees, and shrubs. These new plantings will continue to improve the biodiversity, soil, and watershed potential, give the local community a space to enjoy, and the wildlife will be able to thrive and exist there. Elisea discovered that she was able to plan the project and put it into action and that she really enjoys planting and caring for them.

Restoring and Upgrading Hill Top Trail

Troop #11122: Amherst

Hattie Holabird, Leah Mendelsohn, Eden Polak

When Hattie, Leah, and Eden spoke to the facility manager of Camp Lewis Perkins to find out what needs the camp had, they soon found out that the wetlands stood in the way of there being functional trails on Hill Top Trail. They designed and constructed 12 bridges across the wetlands, opening the trails up for hiking again to all future campers. Working with the site volunteer and facility manager, the girls found the right materials, built the bridges using power tools, and carried them out to the trail to install them. They made posters about their project to educate and encourage future hikers to use the reclaimed nature trails. Hattie, Leah, and Eden learned to be flexible, know their strengths, and when to use them, but also know when to listen.

Restoring Camp Lewis Perkins' Signs

Troop #11122: Amherst

Charlie Hope, Evelyn Hope, Milo Osborne

Being seasoned and frequent campers at Camp Lewis Perkins, Charlie, Evelyn, and Milo knew they wanted to benefit the camp and the Girl Scout community with their Silver Award project. They walked the trails at CLP and saw that the signs on all of the trails were cracked, had fallen down, or were severely faded and decided to replace the signs and make the trails safer and easier to follow. The signs they created are easier to see with bright colors and are made with quality materials and are waterproofed to last for many years. Charlie, Evelyn, and Milo learned to work as a team, even when they were hot and tired, and to never give up and work hard for the things that matter.

Safe Networking Space

Independently Registered Girl: Rochdale

McKenzie Settle

Discovering in middle school that there wasn't a lot of representation and acceptance for the LGBTQ+ community, McKenzie wanted to create a safe space for teens to be themselves. Holding two Gay-Straight Alliance meetings at the public library was the first step, followed by putting together a list of books regarding mental health and the LGBTQ+ community and holding a book drive to acquire these books were the next steps. A permanent shelf was dedicated to LQBTQ+ tweens and teens at the Leicester Public Library and an invitation went out to middle and high school students to visit the library and learn about representation in the community, and see the nearly 100 new books. McKenzie learned how to connect to people and that being a proud ally and not being afraid to speak up can inspire others to help the cause.

Save Our Earth: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Troop #40160: Hampden

Juliet Danehey, Maya M. Marquez, Katie Pronovost, Yazmin Tafolla-Chapin

The team from Troop #40160 hosted an event for elementary school-aged children at the Hampden Public Library to teach them the importance of saving our planet and to show them ways that kids can take action to reduce their carbon footprint. At the end of the event, they donated educational materials, books, activity sheets, and games made from recycled materials to the Hampden Public Library that can be used to celebrate Earth Day each year going forward. As part of their program, they set up a display table with resources and books and took a tour of the library to show the participants the newly installed hand dryers that another team from their troop did as their Silver Award project. Juliet, Maya, Katie, and Yazmin learned the importance of saving OUR planet together and enjoyed the challenge of teaching this to young children.

Silver Award Library Project

Troop #12652: Amherst

Lindsay Franz

Lindsay's goal for her Silver Award project was to make it easier for the MN Spear Library community to access books in a format that was visual and easy to access, and to contribute toward activities that the library could provide to children. She created online padlets of various genres of books, such as graphic novels and kids' chapter books, and made activity kits to help inspire kids to have fun being creative that families could take home and work on together. The padlets and activity kits will be kept and maintained by the library. Lindsay learned that she had to be flexible to complete her project and that earning her Silver Award can lead to other opportunities.

The Essentials Cabinet

Troop #20088: Westborough

Prisha Konduru

Prisha realized that there is a shortage of basic necessities to live a healthy and hygienic life available to people in need and created "The Essentials Cabinet" at the Westborough Public Library. She spent 10 weeks at the local farmers' market educating the community about this need, not only in her community but worldwide, with a presentation and board display. She has ensured the sustainability of her project by creating an informational video and connecting with the Westborough Public Library's youth volunteer group, WAVE, who will rotate shifts taking care of the cabinet. Prisha learned that she needs to be firm when leading a project and how to ask for help when she needs it.

The Mathy Bat Builders

Troop #30502: Sterling

Mattea Morini, Maren Paquette, Hannah Rausch, Alyssa Trombley When the local sports field had to shut down because of the potential of mosquito-borne viruses being present, Mattea, Maren, Hannah, and Alyssa decided to tackle this issue by helping to increase the bat population on the fields. Working with their science teacher and getting approvals from the Sterling selectpeople, they decided that constructing and building bat houses on the fields would make the biggest impact. They created a slideshow to help educate the community, posted it on YouTube, included instructions on how to build bat houses, and worked with the middle school's Conservation Club to maintain the houses. Mattea, Maren, Hannah, and Alyssa learned that things go a lot smoother when they communicate not only their ideas but their concerns as well.

The Punny Path to **Kindness**

Troop #11706: Holden

Eleanor Curran, Constance Currier, Lila Myers, Kaylee Scanlon

Eleanor, Constance, Lila, and Kaylee cleared a 200-foot-long nature path through a section of wood at the Holden Community Garden and lined the path with rocks and branches to make the path clear and easy to follow, using pavers and small stones to finish it. They worked with a Daisy troop to paint puns and jokes on the rocks to make the path more enjoyable and invited the Davis Hill Elementary School students to use the path. Eleanor, Constance, Lila, and Kaylee learned that they do not need to figure things out on their own and that they can depend on their peers to help out.

There Is So Much More To Me Than What You See

Troop #20400: Holden

Alison Grady, Carolina Hamburger Medailleu Alison and Carolina are both very passionate about mental health awareness and wanted to share that passion with their community by creating a picture book about mental health in children titled, There Is So Much More To Me Than What You See, using characters to show mental health in its many forms, and the coping mechanisms used to help them through their challenges. They printed their book and the book has been cataloged in the Gale Free Library for children to access. They prepared a presentation in the library for Mental Health May, displayed their book for the month, and read the book to a group of preschool students. Alison and Carolina learned the importance of destigmatizing mental health challenges and the impact that stories can have to make someone an empathetic person.

Treats From The Saints

Troop #11582: Uxbridge

Rory Goyette

Rory wanted to get her church community more involved in the parish's faith formation program after COVID and get the community back together. She developed Halloween-type activities based around the saints that were offered in six different rooms at The Catholic Community of Sacred Heart that the church parishioners could participate in. She set up a volunteer system to get volunteers to help decorate the rooms and run the children's activities and created a lesson plan so the church can make this an annual event. Rory learned a lot about time management and the importance of getting things done on time.



Dear Bronze Award Girl Scout,

Congratulations Bronze Award Girl Scout,

This award symbolizes your teamwork and dedication to making a difference in your community. You worked hard and you have made a difference. We are so proud of you.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Patricia Hallberg

Chief Executive Officer

Jennifer Johnson

President/Chairwoman

Congratulations to our 2023 Bronze Award Girl Scouts



When Girl Scout Juniors team up to make a difference in their community, they learn important leadership skills, discover new passions, and watch how seemingly small actions make a big difference. It all adds up to the Girl Scout Bronze Award the highest honor a Junior can achieve.

Animal Shelter Dog Adoption Kits

Troop #64673, Sterling

Sophia Contreras, Arden Crowley, Luciana Fournier, Ava Knipe, Kylie McKean, Emma Morris, Abigail Patterson, Catherine Petronino, Alexa Polewarczyk, Madelyn Potenza, Lillian Songer

Bags of Hope

Troop #64874, Leicester

Rialey Eccleston, Angelina Faulkner, Avril Halbedel, Zavha Rivett

Bat Houses for the Park

Troop #64807, Worthington

Lauren Filipeck, Aralyn Jenco, Holly Sampson, Anna Tompkins

Birthday Boxes

Troop #30312, Shrewsbury

Siobhan McLaughlin, Sophia Naras, Megha Shah, Allison Sobiech

Butterfly Garden

Troop #64720, Milford

Mila Cales, Ella Knapp

Celebration Boxes

Troop #64868, Brimfield

Serenity Conant, Alexa Dalton, Kaylianna Downing, Emily Fahl, Neela Lakhani, Kiersten Latch, Olivia Maguire, Lily Mulcahy, Jamison Weetman

COVID Bags

Troop #64790, New Ashford

Caroline Callahan, Evy Clairmont, Luna Collings, Esme Lamb, Isla Osterberg, Laurelin Rotter, Maria Welch

Crafty Campers

Troop #64834, Great Barrington

Audrey Hochler, Serenity Kay, Callie Labshere, Lily Tatro, Devyn Vadakin, Charlotte Van Wagner

Fairy House Trail

Troop #64881, Bolton

Juliana Bush, Patricia Cormack, Lydia Fantana, Cameron Johansen, Muriel Kelley, Rowan Larrabee, Audrey Leverone, Vera Leverone, Eleanor Thomas, Erin Tommasini, llaria Vecchiarelli, Madeleine Warren

Food & Hygiene Bags for STAND

Troop #30673, Paxton

Liliana Brunelle, Allison Buck, Raja Lynne Burdick, Allie Gesner, Zoe Lavigne, Margaret Murwin, Chloe Wolfendale

Foster Kids Backpack Drive

Troop #65174, Shrewsbury

Mishka Chellappa, Savannah Huang, Hansi Inavolu, Maansi Inavolu, Keiyona Panigraphi, Aailyah Ryder, Rhea Sheth, Charlotte Siebels, Emmanuella Torchon, Navya Vikram, Simone Wisuri

Fun Places to Go In and Around Western Massachusetts

Troop #64657, Southampton

Erin Benard, Emmie Florek-Grader, Lexie Gauger, Samantha Gay, Mackenzie Harrison, Hayden Johnson, Avery Landis, Sveva Liquori, Emma McDonald, Amelia Woz

Gagaball Pit at Whitin

Troop #64655, Uxbridge

Madeleine Buckley, Mackenzie Coleman, Charlotte Cunniff, Alana Haggas, Mia Manning, Mackenzie Matthews, Kenzie Petion, Brynn Power, Skyla Sokol, Shea Stone

Kitty Kindness

Troop #30177, Sutton

Annabeth Drummond, Abigail LaCoe, Katherine Nunnemacher, Alanna Pelopida, Mikayla Pelopida, Haley Teixeira

Office Supplies for Second Chance Animal Shelter & Hospital

Troop #64656, Auburn

Braelynn Connolly, Evelynn Stewart

Play Room at Homeless Shelter

Troop #64912, Dalton

Maci Durant, Rowan Gallagher, Mila Krol, Bella Lucier, Stella Matthews, Aria Ott, Althea Schneider, Liesl Soar, Sydney Soar, CeCeilia Tenneson, Gabryella Vargas, Javiana Vargas

Team Up to Cleanup

Troop #64909, Southwick

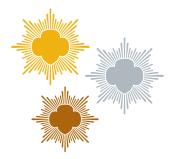
Kaylin Cropanese, Peyton Gogol, Kylie Hanouille, Braylin Starkey



KELSEY AGGREY EMCEE



Kelsey Aggrey is a 2019 Gold Award Girl Scout. This is her fourth year emceeing our Gold and & Silver Award Ceremony. She recently graduated from the University of Valley Forge with a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education and a minor in Church Music. She plans to be either an elementary or middle school music teacher. She is looking forward to impacting the next generation in a positive and life-changing way!



SHAITIA SPRUELL KEYNOTE SPEAKER

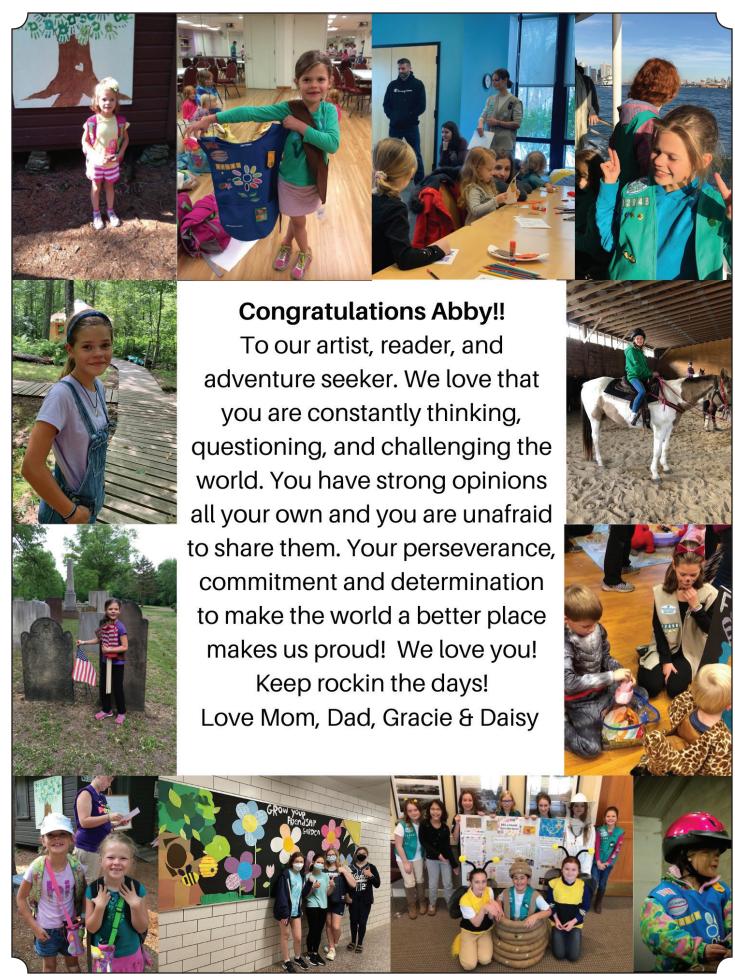


Shaitia Spruell is the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, where she directs, plans, and coordinates the implementation of programs and activities developed by the MCSW Commissioners and supervises all employees and vendors.

Before joining the MCSW, Shaitia served as a State Commissioner appointed by the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators and worked as a Program Manager for the Massachusetts State Treasurer's Office of Economic Empowerment (OEE), primarily overseeing Women's Economic Empowerment Programming and supporting virtual financial education programming. During her time at OEE she was proud to spearhead their Money Talk Tuesday Program, EqualPayMA Roundtable Series, and the Worth & Wealth (Valor y Dinero) Seminars. Shaitia also served as a Regional Commissioner on the Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls and is a member of the Massachusetts Women of Color Coalition, where she focuses on economic justice and education.

Shaitia's passions include advocating for the advancement and elevation of women and girls of the Commonwealth, promoting financial literacy, and increasing economic prosperity for women and girls of color. Earning her A.A. from Holyoke Community College and B.S. from Bay Path University, Shaitia is now enrolled at Fitchburg State University pursuing her MBA in Business Management.

She is originally from Springfield but now lives in Lancaster, MA, with her partner and two boys. When she has time, she enjoys couponing and watching movies with her sons, Aaden and Lorenzo.





A Valley United Service Unit is proud of our Gold **Award Recipient** Madeline Kay and her **Unified Sports Program**

"May you be proud of the work you do, the person you are, and the difference you make."

> Natalie daCunha Sophia Soares Theresa Thomas

We are so proud of your accomplishment! Congratulations!

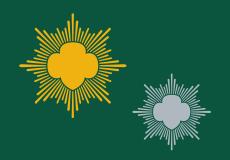
igveetMilford Girl Scouts

Mal Glickman Kovago & Jacobs

Congratulations Abby Vann!

We are so proud of you!

Love, Your GS **Troop 12948**



Congratulations to Westborough Gold and Silver Award Recipients! You make our community and the world a better place. Keep making an impact wherever you go. ~100th Town Service Unit Congratulations on your Gold Award Maddie! We are so very proud of you!!! You have truly made the world a better place.

Love, Mom, Dad, Sophie, Abbie, Izzie, & Julie

















The South Hadley and Granby Girl Scouts would like to congratulate Gold Award Girl Scout Abby Vann!



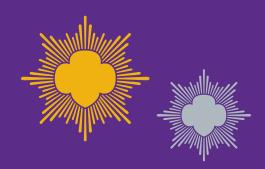
Congratulations Allison! We are very proud of you. Love, Mom, Dad, Samantha, Ebony

Congratulations Mae!

We are proud of your perseverance and treasure your dedicated willingness to help serve others. Always keep close to your heart the GS Promise and Law. Love, Mom, Dad, Chloe, James



Congratulations Allison Demetri on earning your Silver Award. We are so proud of you. Keep reaching for the stars to earn Gold. Love, Your Family



Hadley Girl Scouts Congratulate our Gold Award Girl Scout-Arwen King from Troop 11267 and our Silver Award Girl Scouts-Lindsay Franz and Elizabeth Rotunno from Troop 12652

Achieve your dreams, the Workers Way

Let Workers help you create lasting change for yourself and your community. Meet with a Financial Coach today.

Schedule an appointment at wcu.com/appointment.

of Central & Western MA





LAUREN BENARD: Congratulations on earning your Silver Award! What an accomplishment! We are all so very proud of you and love you lots! Love, Mom, Dad, Nathan, Erin & Ethan, Grandma, Aunt Mary Lou & Uncle Greg (& Katherine), Aunt Maria, Uncle Paul & Aunt Doe





Girl Scouting is an adventure that never ends! Give the gift of a forever sisterhood with the Girl Scout Lifetime Membership. Lifetime members not only receive exclusive benefits they will also provide membership support to girls in their area who are under-resourced.

> LEARN MORE:





Congratulations to Katarina Fetchner, Troop 30010 on becoming a Gold Award Girl Scout. The Silver and Gold Belles Service Unit is proud of you!



Ruby, All of your hard work and dedication has paid off. Congratulations! We are very proud of you! Love, Dad and Trish





Congratulations Charlotte! We are very proud of you for earning your Silver Award! You really added to our community with your helpful project for hikers in Wilbraham!

Love, Mom, Dad, Will and Tuxedo

Dear Aarya, Amy, Meena and Shruti, Congratulations on achieving the Silver Award! We have had the pleasure and privilege of witnessing your fabulous growth from when you were little Brownies, and are so proud of the young women you have become! We will be there wherever you choose to go! -Aruna & Nima (Troop 30930)

We are so proud of this year's Gold Award recipients and we are truly honored to purchase their Gold Award pins. They are our future and they have indeed worked hard to achieve the highest award in Girl Scouting.

We know that they will follow their dreams and bring their had work forward with them into their future. We celebrate our Girl Scout sisters with much pride.

- GSCWM Alumnae Adult Troop 2016



Gold Award Committees

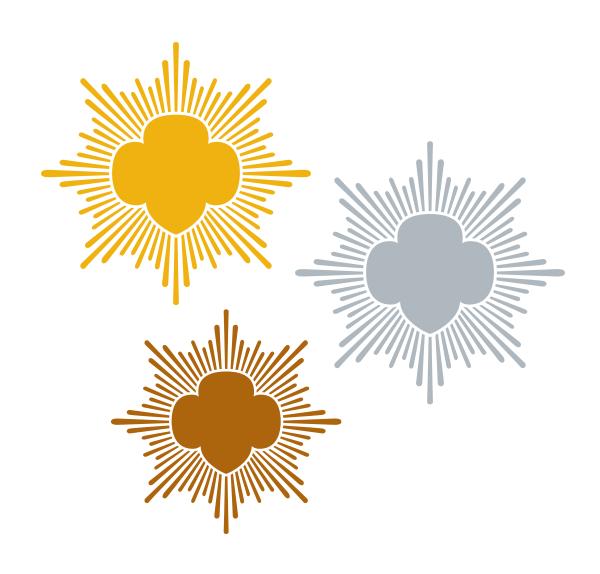
Our council is fortunate to have three regional Gold Award Committees fully dedicated to working with our Gold Award Candidates.

On behalf of GSCWM and all of the girls, we'd like to thank the Gold Award Committee Mentors for their significant commitment of time and talent, and their dedication to the Girl Scout Mission. You are truly making a difference in the lives of girls who, in turn, are making the world a better place.

Paula Brault
Jenn Cherry
Mim Creamer
Glynis DeVerry
Deb Drury
Pam Hennessy
Sue LaBelle
Stacy OBey
Jane Schroeder
Tawnya Tiskus
Ann Marie Waller
Jane Wilson
Arlene Wolfe

A special thank you to tonight's Color Guard: Shrewsbury Troop #11087

GSCWM would like to thank our fabulous emcee for the evening, Kelsey Aggrey. Kelsey became a Gold Award Girl Scout in 2019 and continues to be a shining example for all of us today!





Holyoke Leadership Center 301 Kelly Way Holyoke, MA 01040 Worcester Leadership Center 115 Century Drive Worcester, MA 01606