



girl scouts
of greater chicago
and northwest
indiana

Hall of Fame Class of 2015

The Hall of Fame Award is awarded to an adult who has been a member for at least 25 years, who has delivered service that far exceeds the expectation of any position that has had a lasting impact on the Girl Scout organization or her/his community. This award will be presented a maximum of 10 people per year, and may be awarded posthumously.



Thomas Courtney can celebrate 50 years as a Girl Scout volunteer! He has been a council trainer for nearly half that time, training hundreds of adult volunteers in first aid/CPR. He has helped with troop events and supported service unit activities, including doing public relations work to get community organizations and businesses to support Girl Scouting financially. Thomas is also a member of the Joliet Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting and works to ensure that girls have the same religious award opportunities as boys. Considering that he never had a daughter in Girl Scouting, the dedication that Thomas demonstrates is truly from the bottom of his very generous heart.

Madelon Koerner has been involved in Girl Scouting for nearly 40 years and is a lifetime member. She has been a troop leader, troop coordinator, product sale manager, service unit coordinator, council delegate, and still serves as a council trainer. She worked with girls at the Cadette and Senior levels, sharing with them her love of the outdoors and travel. Because of her, girls have traveled all over the United States and Canada. She has spent many hours at the Macy Center, at National Conferences, and has visited Our Chalet in Switzerland. Madelon's blood truly runs green, and she is a wealth of wisdom and experience she shares with everyone she meets.





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Joy Matthiessen (Posthumously) was involved in Girl Scouting from the age of seven until her passing in 2011 at the age of 60. She was a lifetime member and worked on the Cloverleaf Council staff in recruitment, training and recognition, and later worked with the Whispering Oaks Council. She found many ways to live her dream of sharing her experiences in scouting with girls, and found non-traditional ways to create opportunities for girls in difficult areas on the west edge of Chicago. Joy used her educational background to offer presentations for troops on local history and badgework for girls. Joy's life reflected the values of Girl Scouting, and she firmly believed in "Make new friends, but keep the old."

Mary Wright has received just about every award for adult volunteers, including the Thanks Badge II. Over more than 40 years, she has served in roles such as troop leader, service unit treasurer and coordinator, service unit delegate, and registrar. She started a troop in Chinatown in the early 1970s and still meets there with her troop today! She has guided girls through badgework, product sales, community service and Silver and Gold Awards for many years. She never had any girls of her own in scouting, but considers all the girls she has guided to be her children. She enjoys sharing interactive songs, camping trips, roller skating, and talent shows with the girls and is still willing to wear a cookie costume!

