

A decorative graphic consisting of a semi-circle with a series of vertical lines of varying heights inside it, resembling a rising sun or a stylized sunburst. This graphic is positioned above a horizontal dotted line.

GIRLS CHANGE THE WORLD

A decorative graphic consisting of a semi-circle with a series of vertical lines of varying heights inside it, resembling a rising sun or a stylized sunburst. This graphic is positioned below a horizontal dotted line.

**GIRL SCOUT
GOLD AWARD CEREMONY**
MAY 18, 2019

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2019 Gold Award Ceremony

Refreshments

Presentation of Colors

Welcome

**Rhegan Graham &
Jane Clark**
Emcees

Leadership Remarks

Kathy Scherer
President and Board Chair

Nancy L. Wright
Chief Executive Officer

Words of Inspiration

CDR Zeita Merchant
*Commanding Officer
U.S. Coast Guard Marine
Safety Unit Chicago*

Presentation of Awards

**Rhegan Graham &
Jane Clark**

Silver Award Announcement/Recognition

Closing Remarks

Retire the Colors



Emcees



Rhegan Graham

Rhegan, Gold Award Class of 2016, is a junior at Emerson College in Boston studying Media Arts Production. In the fall, she will be producing the 39th Annual EVVY Awards, the largest student-run award show in the country. For her Gold Award, she created a theater workshop for 3rd-8th graders hosted by Prospect High School that explored aspects of theater performance and production. In the future, she hopes to find a career in the logistics of film, television, or live theater.



Jane Clark

Jane is the chair of the Gold Award Committee. She is the vice president of member services for NationalLease, North America's largest full-service leasing organization, and has previously worked as a membership development director for Fox Valley Girl Scout Council. Jane has been a volunteer for several years and has served on the Adult Recognition Committee.



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.

**Building girls of
courage, confidence,
and character,
who make the world
a better place.**

Words of Inspiration



CDR Zeita Merchant

*Commanding Officer U.S. Coast Guard
Marine Safety Unit Chicago*

Commander Merchant assumed duties as the Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Unit Chicago on July 8, 2016. As the Commanding Officer of Marine Safety Unit Chicago, she is responsible for executing the Coast Guard's Port Safety and Security, Marine Environmental Protection, and Commercial Vessel Safety missions under the auspices of the Department of Homeland Security on the Southern Lake Michigan

shorelines of Illinois and Indiana, as well as the Chicago Area Waterway System and the Illinois River System.

With over 21 years of active duty service, CDR Merchant is a Type-I Incident Commander and a recognized authority in the complex and rapidly changing Marine Safety, Emergency and Environmental Management field. Her previous assignments include Executive Officer of Marine Safety Unit Texas City, a Congressional Fellow on two committees in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., Supervisor, Port of Miami Field Office and Chief of Port Operations at U. S. Coast Guard Sector Miami, Executive Planner to Coast Guard Flag and Senior Executive Service members at Coast Guard Headquarters, and a Marine Inspector and Port Operations Officer at Marine Safety Office New Orleans, Louisiana.

Commander Merchant graduated with honors from Tougaloo College with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and went on to complete Master's degrees in Quality Systems Management and Public Administration; and a Doctorate in Business Administration. In addition, she is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government's Executive Education Leadership in Homeland Security

Course and a 2015-2016 Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI National Security and Foreign Affairs Fellow.

Commander Merchant's personal military awards include two Meritorious Service Medals, six Coast Guard Commendation Medals, three Coast Guard Achievement Medals, two Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medals, and four Commandant's Letters of Commendation, Marine Safety Insignia and Commandant's Staff Identification Badge.



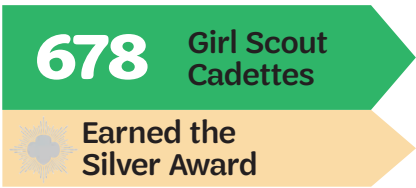
Highest Awards by the Numbers

The statistics below are representative of the GSGCNWI fiscal year, which runs Oct. 1 — Sept. 30.

IN 2018



SO FAR IN 2019



Gold Award Scholarships

Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana thanks the generous donors who support our council's Gold Award scholarship fund. In the third year of this scholarship fund, 9 Gold Award Girl Scouts received a total of \$10,000 in college scholarships in honor of their commitment to making the world a better place.

2018 Scholarship Recipients

Cameryn Cobb

College of DuPage

Erin McBriarty

Oklahoma City University

Kaitlin Gaynor

Michigan State University

Grace Schwandner

Illinois State University

Bridgette Hegarty

Univeristy of Minnesota

Mairead Skelton

University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana

Allison Klage

University of Iowa

Lianna Wisneski

Miami University

Mattie Levy

University of Michigan

Our thanks to ALL the donors whose gifts make Gold Award Scholarships possible. The following made gifts of \$100+ in FY18:

Allison Baxter
Sara Breyfogle
Sally Clair
William Coughlin
Marcella Dalm
Valeria de Leon
Susan Fickling-Munge
Christine Filer
Diane Gemignani
Julia Gilmartin

Lee Helmer
Michele Herman
Vicki King
Patricia Mellema
Terry Ann Nissly
Caitlin Padula
Tessa Poulsen
Veronica Pradelski
Juliette Romeo
Anne Samuels

Corinne Jeannine Schillings
Foundation
Victoria Severson
Mary Catherine Sexton
Janet Shannon
Peggy Sinko
Jennifer Smith
Rachel Tanzer
Mary Ann Tuft
Maryann Waryjas

Learn more about supporting the scholarship fund by contacting Patricia Broughton at pbroughton@girlscoutsgcnwi.org or visiting girlscoutsgcnwi.org/scholarships. Named endowed scholarship opportunities are also available.

2019 Gold Award Recipients

Samantha Ackerman

Say “No” to Plastic Straws

For my project I wanted to focus on the environment, but I wanted to be sure to include an aspect that would make it easy to spread the word. I focused on straws and started the movement “#sayno2straws”. With that I created a website, Instagram, and promotional video, but that wasn’t all. I then went to the Bolingbrook jamboree and taught girls the importance of using sustainable products. I also made a speech and showed my video in front of the whole camp to raise awareness for my Gold Award project.

Melanie Albers

Culinary Education

I hosted a culinary class for girls in 4-8th grade and taught them necessary cooking skills. They learned knife skills and practiced on fruits and vegetables. I also taught them how to make a pizza from scratch. We finished by making smoothies and veggie plates.

Maeve Anger

Destigmatizing Mental Health in Middle Schools

My project focused on improving mental health education, particularly understanding stress and how to cope, in middle schools. I worked with Erika’s Lighthouse and Our Lady of Humility Primary School in Beach Park to create a program that could be delivered to the 7th and 8th graders as they prepare to transition to high school. The program focused mainly on ways to cope with stress and how to be mindful of themselves.

Kendra Anifer

HOPE (Have Only Positive Expectations)

My project was aimed at helping children who were about to undergo chemotherapy treatments. I created bags that were centered around making their first chemo visit a positive experience for them and their families. The bags provided personal care items, books, toys and positive notes of support. These bags of HOPE reached patients in Illinois, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas. Each bag had HOPE imprinted on it with the acronym standing for ‘Have Only Positive Expectations’ as this mindset will help the child and their family as they go through their chemotherapy journey.

Zoe Blackburn

Zeta Bag It’z

I worked with multiple organizations (Disney, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and churches) to obtain food and grooming supplies (toothbrushes, etc.) to place in bags that were then distributed to the homeless men, women and children in and around Chicago.

Olivia Borth

“You Are Worthy”

My project was all about self love and appreciation. In today’s society so many individuals compare themselves to others, ultimately leading to a negative self image. To combat this, I wanted to spread love not only in my school, but in my Glenview community using the campaign slogan “You Are Worthy.” I used brightly painted rocks to attract local pedestrians and put signs in various windows with the inspirational message “You Are Worthy.”

Sarah Bouhuys

Butterfly Prayer Garden

For my Gold Award, I gave back to my church by creating a place for the congregation to enjoy and feel more in touch with God. I worked with a group of volunteers to transform the old courtyard into a spectacular garden and place for prayer or meditation. The garden will also attract butterflies as well as the eyes of visitors to the church.

Amanda Bozzetti

Tutoring at a Local Homeless Shelter

When I started my gold award project, I decided to focus on homelessness, specifically on the lack of education. Children who are in a shelter are significantly more likely to show delayed development and I wanted to be able to change that statistic for the children at a local homeless shelter. I started tutoring at a shelter in Joliet with a group of volunteers I recruited. We would help the children with homework as well as play games with the younger kids. Overall, I wanted to make a difference in these children’s lives and their educational experience.

Sarah Breinig

Moving Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead

For my Gold Award, I created a S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, ART, and Math) event to inspire young kids to see the bridge between STEM and the arts. Attendees participated in activities for each letter of STEAM and learned about different opportunities to put the right and left sides of their brain to work.

Mary Theresa Brinkman

Project Leading to Reading

My Girl Scout Gold Award project was a reading mentorship program between local high school students and elementary school students. At a local elementary school’s Learning Resource Center, high school students were paired with elementary students, helping with reading curriculum and developing positive, encouraging relationships with the younger students. My project was designed to improve literacy and confidence when reading, and it aimed developing a love of reading.



DeVonna Brockman

S.C.A.L.E. (Sickle Cell Awareness & Lifestyle Empowerment)

My project was a series of videos on a YouTube channel I created called SCALE. This stands for Sickle Cell Awareness and Lifestyle Empowerment. These videos will help to educate people on Sickle Cell Disease and give people who have the disease advice and techniques on how to deal with symptoms and other issues relating to their diagnosis.

Kaitlyn Brown

5th Grade STEM Videos

I created videos that worked with the 5th grade science curriculum and help kids gain a better understanding of the topics so they can enjoy science more. I developed four science videos that cover a variety of topics taught in 5th grade and paired the videos with fun and easy experiments with supplies from around the house. With the help of my family and adviser I was able to create these videos for several middle schools and provide a starter kit with supplies to the school where my adviser worked.

LaTosha Brown

There's a Difference in Diabetes!

I created an educational video about Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. The video focused on the lifestyle of diabetics, like how to check blood sugars, and what do to when your blood sugar is high or low, etc. I also hosted two events where girls watched the video and were challenged to make smoothies under 30 carbohydrates. Lastly, the girls also had hands on experience with giving shots of insulin and lantus into grapes.

Gillian Buckardt

Seeds for Hope

I built a three-bin composter, hand-washing station, and website with a seed donation platform for an urban community garden in Maywood, Illinois. I worked closely with Maywood community activists, Proviso East High School student volunteers, Proviso Partners for Health, and Chicago Botanic Gardens to help this garden grow in its mission to empower citizens and offer relief in a historically marginalized and food desert community. Additionally, I presented information about composting and my project to the Maywood gardening club. (<https://seedsforhope.weebly.com/>)

Lindsey Burke

For the Love of Adler

My Gold Award, For the Love of Adler, raised community awareness and education for the David Adler Cultural Center. This year they are celebrating the 100-year mark of the estate. I worked with the staff and historians to create a brochure with a timeline, organizational history, biography of Mr. Adler, historical pictures, and the center's current mission. The brochures

and all the copyrighted work were handed over to the center so they could make any necessary changes in the future. For this project I used my love of the arts and talent for research to make professional and educational brochures.

Alita Caron

Reconnecting to Peace Through Growing

My project addressed the issue of providing an activity that enriched and benefitted the health and lives of clients at St. Agnes. I enriched their lives through the proven activity of gardening, specifically in a raised garden bed.

Tiffany Ceaser

Transitioning Families from Shelters to Homes

My project helped families from homeless shelters receive basic toiletries needed for everyday living. I held a donation drive dinner where more than 250 people were in attendance. This project had such a huge impact on the community that other organizations will be presenting their own donation drives in years to come.

Kourtney Collier

Girls Succeed In STEM

Less than half of people practicing in the STEM field are females. My project addressed this issue by spreading the word to females about how fun and rewarding STEM can be. I did this through planning and executing a STEM workshop for 4th and 5th grade girls, maintaining a social media campaign, and delivering information about STEM to Housing Opportunities.

Sofia Coury

Reading Gear

I created 80 literacy reading gear kits for underprivileged children in Pre-K through 8th grade that utilize the Libertyville Township food pantry. I worked with literacy experts, librarians, and my project advisor to create these kits (which are split into four different age groups) that contained a book, resources sheet, parent guide, stuffed animal (for the younger kids), journal and dictionary (for the older kids), and fun things like stickers and bookmarks. I will continue my project by creating a three year cycle which the Libertyville Township will take over and fund.

Lauren DiCiaula

Therapy Dogs to the Rescue

I trained and got my dog certified as a therapy dog. I took him out to nursing homes to help the residents with loneliness. I also took him into schools to help reduce stress, and took him to a day camp to educate kids about therapy dogs and other types of working animals.



Denise Fischer

Biogirl Biology Review App

I built an interactive biology review app geared towards high schoolers. This project is where my passion for biology and interest in computer science intersect. I want to inspire other people, especially girls, to explore STEM fields for themselves, and hopefully my talents will help them find theirs. The app is called BioGirl and can be downloaded from Apple's AppStore!

Lucy Fischer

Kibble Kitchen Food Pantry

My project addressed the issue of people who are forced to give up their pets due to a lack of income. I created the Kibble Kitchen Pet Food Pantry to keep pet-owners suffering from economic crisis from relinquishing their pets by providing free pet food until the pet-owner is once again able to afford to care for their pet. These pets are not able to get as much veterinarian care as most pets, so it's important that the people attending the food pantry are able to have access to actual pet food. It can be dangerous for a dog or cat to constantly be eating food made for humans because it doesn't provide appropriate nutrition needed for these pets. I decided to create Kibble Kitchen Pet Food Pantry to both educate the public about this issue and to provide support for the clients of the food pantry.

Victoria Frederichs

Meeples for Peoples

My project involved collecting and donating a variety of board games to my school in order to start my own gaming club, Meeples for Peoples. So far, I have donated 143 games. The club meets every other Thursday to learn a new game. People have already started bringing in their own games to teach others. They are also bringing home the games to learn with their families, and these students are meeting a whole new friend group, while also learning important life and communication skills that they can apply to their future.

Alexis Fuller

Stitchsisa for Cancer

For my Gold Award I decided to help female cancer patients that are going through treatment. I came upon this project because cancer has affected many people in my life. When I was younger I lost my grandfather to cancer, and just last year I lost my aunt. Many patients choose to cover their heads when they have visitors because of the hair loss, but many wigs or hats are uncomfortable to wear. My Gold Award addressed that issue by using silk to create head coverings. I made 50 head coverings that will enable women to feel comfortable and beautiful while they are going through treatment.

Madison Garcia

Save the Monarch Butterflies

For my Gold Award, I chose Monarch Butterflies as my project's focus because of my rising passion to help their cause and the continued interest in making a difference in the world. I worked with my elementary school and my local retirement community to help prevent the future endangerment of Monarch Butterflies. My project's goal was to increase the number of milkweeds, or a butterfly's habitat, around my community by planting around my local elementary school and retirement home.

Emma Gatz

Inspiration Walls

My project, a set of inspirational quotes painted in my high school's bathrooms, was aimed toward raising young girls' and boys' self-confidence and self-esteem. In the girls' bathroom, I painted messages that reflect being confident in your own skin and being beautiful from the inside out. In the boys' bathroom, I conveyed the message of strength in hard times and perseverance. Overall, this project encompassed the message of self-worth and loving yourself being of utmost importance, especially when social media can have negative effects on teenagers. These messages are painted in the common area bathrooms so faculty, students, and visitors can view them!

Kimberly Grabiec

Bullet Journal Club

One of the biggest issues I noticed at my high school was that many students struggled to find time for clubs and sports outside of their classes, let alone find time for volunteering or extra-curriculars outside of school. In order to fix this problem, I decided to start Bullet Journal Club. Bullet Journals are blank notebooks that can be converted into creative and personalized planners, habit trackers, and calendars. By providing a fun and individualized way to time manage, many students became involved and created their own journals. I shared the club with my local library as well as across social media with a website, an Instagram page, and video tutorials. By creating individualized outlines for time management, students my age and younger were able to find more time for extra-curriculars and personal projects and felt empowered to plan for bigger future goals.

Krystyna Granat

St. Alexander Mobile Rehab

For my Gold Award, I gathered a team of people to tear off deteriorating plywood siding and gutters on a mobile unit located on the property of St. Alexander Parish in Palos Heights, IL. We replaced old materials with new house wrap, wood siding and gutters so it will continue to be used for years to come.

Dina Graves

Music in Motion

I created a music program called “Music in Motion” for schools with limited music programs. For the project I collected recorders and xylophones while creating a music program to teach kids how to read and play music. It included songs from beginner to advanced so everyone could participate.

Dannielle Harper

A Drop in the Ocean

For my project, I wanted to nurture, comfort, and shine a light of hope in the lives of women and children who are going through tough times. I did this by working with the Life Spring Foundation to make purses for the women and stuffed animals for the children.

Rayna Harris

Fall in Love with Reading!

For my Gold Award project, I focused on reading and literacy and I worked with the youth in my community. My main target was improving the reading comprehension and literacy with the students at Georgetown Elementary. I reached out to other youth in my community for a book party which exposed them to different genres of books to encourage more reading.

Adrianna Helstad

Reaching Out to Cambodia

In my Gold Award, Reaching out to Cambodia, I was able to see the need for basic necessities and school supplies for rural Cambodian children. I took action by reaching out to local businesses, securing reliable international shipping, acquiring the needed items, and maintaining a relationship with the school. My Gold Award provided these daily necessities that the school children normally would not be able to get but by having them improved their lives immensely.

Lura Honderich

Creation of Godly Playroom

I refinished and refurbished a classroom in the basement of my church. The room is now being used for fourth grade students to learn on Sundays. Originally, the room had a lot of water damage and was a dark color that made it difficult to feel comfortable in. I changed the color, arranged for the repair of the water damage and refurnished the room.

Katie Hopp

Saving Our Jail

For my Gold Award, I wanted to rally our community to save a local jail that doubles as a haunted house every year. We cleaned everything and repainted the building. There will always be a need for these repairs to continue, so I encouraged other groups and troops in my area to pitch in and continue my efforts.

Makena Hose

Celebrating the Girl

In order to celebrate the power of women everywhere participants of all ages, boy or girl, Girl Scout or non-Girl Scout were welcome to learn about 8 women of various racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds. Each participant was given a small book with facts about each woman and beads to complete a bracelet after taking the workshop from each woman. Music was provided as well as refreshments, so the community was guaranteed a fun time while learning something new!

Hannah Howard

Write On, Girl!

My project focused on girl empowerment and included the development and implementation of a fun writing program, Write On, Girl! It also included “curriculum” that inspired girls to express themselves through the power of the pen using teen-led instruction on various writing forms at regularly scheduled Alive Center - Naperville Dare to be Rare: Girl Empowerment Club meetings. The project’s program content included the exploration of different writing methods that helped raise the girls’ self-esteem, promote creativity and self-expression, giving the girls in the club a unique voice by cultivating confidence, self-worth and self-respect.

Akayla Jackson

Lupus Awareness

My gold award project focused on Lupus Awareness in my community. I created and directed a video of myself telling my own personal story surrounding my Lupus diagnosis. I also interviewed a person who has had Lupus for a much longer time than I to help educate those who are unfamiliar with the disease. At the end of my video there was a Q&A for the most asked Lupus questions.

Jacqueline Jania

The Healthcare Hostel Project

My project was a website that highlighted careers and jobs in healthcare and medicine. I did this because there are so many careers that are overlooked too easily. There are many wonderful job paths in medicine that many middle and high school students don’t know exist. I focused on highlighting careers in healthcare because many of the people encountered in doctor’s appointments have said that they didn’t know their job even existed when they were my age.

MiCayla Jones

Clothing Drive for Rush Hospital

For my project, I partnered with Rush University Rehabilitation department to collect clothes for patients who did not have gym clothes to do physical therapy. These donations will allow patients to be more comfortable while they are doing their physical therapy.



Vanessa Kloefer

Flower Power

My Gold Award focused on two areas that needed improvement: an old side of my church and the lack of plants and areas that pollinators need. The old, poorly taken care of side of church was given a makeover, and the area became filled with plants that are tailored to having a safe spot for pollinators to rest and survive.

Catherine Kort

Alive Center Mural and Craft Binder

For my Gold Award project, I painted a mural and created a mindfulness-themed craft binder for the Alive Center. The Alive Center is a teen center in Naperville that hosts teens from around the area along with local organizations. All who work and volunteer at the facility aim to inspire teens to express themselves and be their best self while providing a space to do so. I chose to create the mural and the binder because of my passion for art. I designed the mural with the goal of inspiring visitors into considering the art activities offered at the facility, while the binder itself offers multiple of those activities as mindfulness-themed crafts. I wanted to give other teens the chance to discover a new passion, and if not, then find stress relief in the crafts that I've compiled.

Skyler Kreunen

Lake Bluff Ravine Park Trail Preservation

This project provides the design, construction and installation of two wooden boardwalks through a popular Lake Bluff Park District ravine which restores and stabilizes a natural hiking path. The ravines are a distinctive feature of our community and this improvement will prevent future ravine path erosion by allowing drainage and keeping foot traffic from pounding mud and roots down further. It also improves the access and safety of the path and expands the options for summer camps, local hikers and future generations. Finally, this project provides a boardwalk design that can be used by other groups beyond the local park district.

Katherine Lahart

Music is a Necessity for Everyone

When exploring my community I first noticed a lack of awareness for the need to include music in the special needs programs in my area. I wanted to use my musical abilities to both provide this awareness for the problem and directly fill that need. I worked with a local organization, Seaspar, and their sensory room for those with special needs and composed a playlist of calming music to play during their therapy sessions. The music may have a multitude of uses, such as improving focus or simply stimulating calm in those who listen to it.

Ashley Lakomek

Red Shoe Project Indoor

My project, Red Shoe Project Indoor, collects gently used or new board games to provide to local elementary school teachers. These games help provide educational benefits to students while they may be stuck indoors for recess during bad weather or the winter months.

Katherine Lasonde

Larry Fink Memorial Park

The Larry Fink Memorial Park in Highland Park flooded and remained flooded during rainy seasons due to shallow rooted turf grass instead of necessary, native deep-root plants. Due to the flooding, local sports teams were unable to use the park, and the area was left unattractive. For this project, I worked with the Park District of Highland Park to create a 34,700 sq ft rain garden. In order to do so, we uprooted the turfgrass, and then I researched native plant species and designed the park. We held a seminar at Solel Congregation-- the synagogue across the street-- on the ecological importance of rain gardens. Finally, a group of thirty volunteers and I planted over 1,000 plants and seeds at Larry Fink Memorial Park.

Helen Leverson

COOL Transitional Housing

I worked to raise awareness for COOL, a non-profit organization in Lake County that helps transition families who were previously homeless into affordable, sustainable housing. With money I raised, I purchased plantings for the front yard of one of the transitional housing units and a shed for the backyard, where volunteers could store groundskeeping tools and maintain the unit more easily. I also routinely cleaned and painted different units around Lake County and installed new flooring in one unit.

Talicia Levy

Oak View Reading Area

For my project, I created a fun area for children to learn from reading. I supplied bookcases that are bright colors which are very inviting for students to enjoy reading more.

Kathryn Lieven

WPC Classroom Painting Project

For my project, I worked to redo classrooms at Wildwood church. The first day some volunteers and I painted one classroom and prepped another one. The second day we finished painting the two other rooms and the third day we took off all the tape in the rooms, put them back together and painted the white board in the computer room.

Abbey Lorch

Beatification of School Courtyard

I turned a weeded environment in my school into a beautiful place people can enjoy. I planted herbs, vegetables, and fruits for the culinary classes. I also planted beautiful flowers that the art classes and photography classes can use to take photos and create art.

Olivia Louthen

Vamos a Leer!

I rehabbed the library of an underprivileged Chicago Public School and then used this new library to form a Spanish reading book club. This book club was established with the goal to connect Latino students back to their heritage by reading in their first language.

Grace Mangel

Selah Freedom Sex Trafficking Couch

For my project I fundraised money locally to purchase a couch for an organization called Selah Freedom. The couch and blanket I purchased were gifted before Christmas to girls who had recently been liberated from sex trafficking. While working on my project I was able to spread awareness on the dangers and risks of teenage sex trafficking and impact girls positively who are just like me but have been in a position they didn't deserve to be in.

Grace Marcheselli

Support Our Troops

I wanted to bring the service opportunity to my school to volunteer at Operation Support our Troops. My project's purpose was to bring awareness to the needs of our military troops to my school and community. In order to build awareness, I built pamphlet stands that showcased the O.S.O.T. literature and hosted a food drive at my church to collect items for Operation Support our Troops.

Jane McGuire

Kids Thrive Through Theater: The Posen Performers

With the help of my friends from my school's thespian society, I started a free two week theater camp for the children in that neighborhood. I wanted to give the kids a chance to experience the benefits of theater, and a place where they could build confidence, teamwork, and have fun. I have been participating in theater since I was nine, and it completely changed my life for the better. When it came time for me to create my Gold Award Project, I wanted to do something that was meaningful to me, and that was theater camp. As the foundress of my theater camp, "Posen Performers," I created schedules for camp activities, advertised and produced the show, and directed the staff and kids daily. The project was a lot of work, but I learned so much about myself, and the campers through the process. My camp's impact inspired me to take on even more leadership roles and projects.

Sherry Mestan

Books For Babies

After learning that many hospitals in my community lack funding to provide books for chronically ill children, I began this project to encourage reading in the home. I raised money and collected board books to donate to infants and toddlers in the developmental clinic at Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago. In order to provide book bags for the patients, I organized a local community event where young Girl Scouts learned how to sew and create unique bags. As my sustainable impact, I worked with pediatric specialists to design a brochure that teaches parents the importance of reading to support their child's language development.

Sophie Metzger

Save The Monarchs

I focused my efforts on preserving the Monarch Butterfly population by teaching seminars to elementary age kids. I taught them how to harvest seeds, created a mudball giveaway bag and we planted seeds around the community. My sustainability aspect of my project was the knowledge that will be passed on to the students and the seeds will continue to regrow each year and will create more plants because of how the seeds germinate.

Tiffany Muoghalu

Activity Books for AMITA Bolingbrook Hospital

I designed and published an activity for the adult and child patients who are staying at the AMITA Hospital in Bolingbrook. Most adults or children who visit the ER have sick or injured family member or are sick or injured themselves. The hospital helps comfort families during the time the family member is in the hospital. After talking with the hospital, I realized that the hospital had a need for activities for the patients who are staying in the hospital for long or short term periods, and an activity book was a great project that will be sustained for years to come.

Kari Myers

Valentine's Textile Recycling Drive

I created a Valentine's Day themed textile recycling drive. SWALCO in Lake Country recycles new and gently used clothing and textiles and turns them into usable new products. It's estimated that 85% of textiles in the U.S. end up in landfills, which is why I found that this was an important topic to bring awareness to for my Gold Award. I collected over 1,500 textiles at Lake Forest High School with the permission of the deans and gave them to SWALCO.



Ana Peduk

Tie-Blankets for the Homeless

I distributed 85 tie-blankets to the homeless in the community and have set up for a similar amount to be made and distributed annually. I did this to offer a sense of warmth to the local homeless both for their bodies and souls, and to raise awareness of how prevalent homelessness is locally. In the long term, I hope that the volunteers keep the impact they made in the back of their minds at all times, which would drive them to continue to do what they can for the homeless and other people at a disadvantage. I hope that in the long term, for the homeless, the blankets will serve as a reminder that people care, and that they will also serve as inspiration for a happier disposition.

Sabrina Plabenek

A New Place to Learn

For my project I built an outdoor classroom and garden at one of my district's elementary schools. Also, I made a lesson plan that teaches the students about the plants in the garden and how to help the environment. The students and their teachers can use this classroom on nice days allowing an escape from the four cinder block walls and a way to learn about the world they live in.

Christine Potermin

Outreach for Teens with Chronic Illnesses

The purpose of my Gold Award project was to increase awareness of chronic illnesses in the community and to support children and teens with chronic illnesses. I created a website and flyers to support teens with chronic illnesses as well as a brochure for children recently diagnosed with juvenile arthritis that I distributed to local schools and pediatric offices. My project had a local impact through the schools and pediatrician offices, but is also globally accessible through the website. Through my Gold Award project, I learned so much about chronic illnesses and I have grown as a person. I am so grateful for everyone who helped make this project possible and guided me along the way.

Miranda Price

Haiti Orphanage Collection

I partnered with First Church in DeMotte to help an orphanage in Haiti that they sponsor. I designed and built a place where tags for items needed can be posted on a board and donations can be dropped off. This will help the church members know what to donate to best help the children at the orphanage. To kick off the donation process, I also organized a peanut butter drive with the youth group there, and any extra jars were given to the local food pantry.

Jessica Prince

Land Restoration

I assisted in the ongoing movement of land restoration by leading my own restoration work day. In addition to helping with the cause, I inspired and accumulated more volunteers through the educational website I created.

Paige Radgowski

Finding Yourself Through Fashion

For my project I created an after school club that helped teenagers come into their own. The members learned different techniques to help enjoy life and be the best they can be no matter their shape or size. Social media has warped a lot of people's ideas on what their body should look like and this project allowed girls to find their own self-confidence.

Elizabeth Ramirez

Comfort Carts

The local elementary school has a growing population of special needs students but did not have anywhere for these students to take a break when needed. I made up a cart full of items that will allow the students to take 'brain breaks' and collect themselves so they are able to return to work. I also completed a space for students to go to if they need to leave the classroom and have a quiet area to help them regain focus so they can complete their tasks for the school day.

Emily Restivo

Project Comfort!

For my project, I made surgical caps for children who are undergoing surgery. I gathered my scout troop with help from my advisor Laura Dellaca and managed to make 150 to 200 surgical caps for children and infants. In this project, we made the caps with fun cotton materials that had fun cartoons ranging from superheros to Disney characters to make the kids feel like they have a choice before their surgery.

Abigail Rigazio

Native Plant Garden

For my Gold Award project, I worked with my former middle school to create the start of a successful garden of native plant species. This was something that was needed and wanted due to the sparse number of plants around the school, which includes species that are native to the region.

Kathryn Rost

The CareKit Foundation

For my project, I worked with the CareKit Foundation. Founded in 2017, The CareKit Foundation collects and distributes toiletries, first aid supplies, socks, washcloths, snacks, and other supplies to homeless shelters, women's shelters, and other people in need. The CareKit Foundation also



collects new school supplies and classroom supplies for distribution to students and teachers. I also encouraged Girl Scout troops and other groups to start making CareKits on their own. I hope that in the long term, for the homeless the blankets will serve as a reminder that people care, and that they will also serve as inspiration for a happier disposition.

Charlotte Russell

How Not to Sink!

My Gold Award project introduced girls to STEM, in particular to engineering and design by giving them the opportunity to make tin foil boats to race and sink with pennies at a police National Night Out event. It also gave them the opportunity to build card stock boats at a village picnic and build cardboard boats which were raced in the local Fourth of July cardboard boat regatta.

Emma Sherwin

Care Packages for Adult Cancer Patients

Through my project, I brought awareness to of the needs of adult cancer patients receiving treatment in lower-income communities. My project provided care packages to adult cancer patients in the Rush Copley Cancer Care Center. Working with a team at the Cancer center we came up with items they thought would benefit the patients. Each package was presented in a recycled carrying tote and contained a fleece-tied pillow, water bottle, puzzle book, journal, peppermint candies, hand sanitizer, and a pen. My inspiration for this project was family members and friends that have gone through cancer treatment and I wanted patients to feel comforted and loved. I procured donations from local businesses including Whole Foods, Meijer, and Floor & Decor. I also led two 45 minute informative programs at my school where I taught members of the Neuqua Valley High School Interact Club and Student Council how to create the care packages, and about how these care packages will benefit the patients. At these programs, I also provided brochures to the students explaining the steps they can take to prevent cancer, as well as instructions on how they can make and donate care packages to the Rush Copley Cancer Center.

Katherine Sivak

Art for All

The Art for All project's goal was to provide art supplies to children of financially struggling families. This project included the collection of art supplies through community drives, direct donations, and purchasing art supplies with funds earned from product sales and art contest awards. The art supplies were sorted and packaged into art kits and provided to the Hanover Township Trustees Office to distribute as part of its food pantry.

Natalie Skiest

Organizing the Riverside Arts Center

I helped the Riverside Arts Center organize their supplies and art work. I did this by cleaning three of their large supply closets and organizing their materials so they can easily find things. I also built three moveable cabinets (wheels attached) that I donated to them to provide additional storage space.

Hannah Sliwa

Science Career Expo

To combat the issue of students entering college as an undecided major, I gathered professionals from different STEM fields, which included professionals from Argonne National Laboratory, Midwestern University, Joliet Junior College, CITGO, Northern Illinois University, and more, to educate middle school and high school students on the diverse career opportunities in STEM. The professionals discussed what they do, how they got there, and even had small hand-outs or demonstrations to spark the students' interests. The students were also able to devour various science-related treats! To make my project sustainable, I was interviewed by administration from Joliet Junior College and was able to get my story into the Harold Newspaper!

Angela Spilotro

Save Our Teeth (SOT)

In my Gold Award project, Save Our Teeth, I made dental health education videos for a local middle school and high school, swim club members, and the Allendale Association in order to further encourage hygiene and prevent illness. As habits start young, instilling proper knowledge and skills into children otherwise lacking that insight saves money, health, and self-image. By working with current and former teachers and health professionals, I was able to create successful videos and a positive learning experience for the 200+ students I reached.

Kyra Swims

Healthy Beginnings

I chose to run a workshop for children in 1st through 5th grades. During this workshop I informed them about the importance of living a healthy life and a nutritionist came in talked about how it's important to start those practices at an early age. The kids participated in a 20-minute Zumba session and received a healthy lunch and awards.



Natalie Urban

Spring Valley Nature Center Activity Book

I noticed that due to the construction of a new playground, my local nature center had a plethora of new visitors, but they weren't leaving the playground to explore the entirety of the Center. To encourage visitors, I made an activity book that walked them through the 3 ecosystems found at Spring Valley as they would find them leaving from the playground area. My goal was to educate kids about the nature around them while having fun doing it.

Mary Therese Vasil

Stairs Repairs

On the campus of my parish, there are two mobile homes that were once used as classrooms. The two staircases leading to the mobile homes were in disrepair and posed different safety issues to the numerous groups that use that space. I calculated measurements, raised money, and acquired the supplies to refurbish the staircases to make them safe for all to use.

Simone Wall

The Camping Library

The Camping Library is a place where community members can check out and return camping equipment for free. By eliminating the large upfront investment one must make when purchasing tents and equipment, people will be encouraged to go out and try camping. They can also learn more about camping through the website and instructional handbook.

Brighid Weisheit

Literacy Love

I started my project to aid kids in my community that may not receive the same help I did while learning to read. I orchestrated a fundraising event at a local bookstore to raise money so we could purchase books for Washington Elementary's library. I also made sight word games for Washington's parent volunteers to use around the school. Finally, I made reading games for the reading specialist at Washington.

Joan Wood

Run for the GOLD

I worked with girls in 3rd through 8th grade at Hollow Elementary School to help them instill confidence and a lifetime appreciation of health and fitness. I did this through a running program that was 9 weeks long. I taught the girls to set goals, how to plan and to reach their goals, and gave them inspiration and encouragement.



**Emma,
We are so
proud of
you!**



Love, Mom, Dad, and Katrin



Achieving such a prestigious award will most certainly be inspiring to other girls in our community. We are so proud of you on earning the Girl Scout Gold Award. The best is yet to come for you, as the sky is the limit!

Abigail Rigazio, Hinsdale Central High School, Class of 2020

Much love,
Dad, Mom, & Avery



Congratulations
MiCayla!



Continue to Grow, Continue to Inspire
and Continue to Pay It Forward!
So proud of you and I am so excited for
your future!
Love you always, Mom

MiCayla Jones



We Love you "Cookies"
Congratulations on your
Girl Scout Gold Award
We love you and you have done a great job!
The Jones Family



*We are so proud
of all your hard
work and
dedication to
achieving your
Gold Award!
Love,
Patty, Darlene
and Annette*



*Congratulations
Joanie
We are so
proud of you~*



Congratulations Tess!



***You Are Amazing!
Your Voice Matters!***

***We're proud of you
and we know you'll
change the world!***

***Love,
Mom, Dad,
Joey, Patrick & Grandma***

Congratulations, Kendra!

**We are SO incredibly proud of you
and all that you have
accomplished.**

**You are hardworking, dedicated
and motivated.**

**The best way to predict your
Future is to create it!
You have created a Great One!
Congratulations!**

**We love you to the moon & back!
Mom, Dad, Trevor
Snickers & Winston**

**Congratulations
MiCayla Jones**

**Thanks for going
for the GOLD!
We LOVE YOU !
Sister Girl Scout
Troop 20368
& Troop 20737**



We are so proud of you, Helen. Love, Mom, Dad and Aaron

A Gift That Never Expires

Believe in the power of **G.I.R.L.**

Become a Lifetime Girl Scout Today.

Transform leadership in action as you support and stay connected to the largest leadership development organization for girls in the world! Join Girl Scouts as a lifetime member today, and make an enduring pledge to believe in the power of every **G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader).™**

Lifetime membership dues are \$400. A young alum lifetime membership, at the reduced cost of \$200, is offered to anyone 18 years to 29 years old who was a girl member at any time during her childhood. Giving the gift of lifetime membership is the perfect way to express your admiration for a graduating Girl Scout.

Log into your family account through our council website at www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org to register your daughter or yourself for lifetime membership, or send an email to our registration help desk at reghelp@girlscoutsgcnwi.org.

Visit girlscoutsgcnwi.org to become a lifetime member of Girl Scouting's global sisterhood.



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Thank you to our committee members who support Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors through the process of earning the Girl Scout Gold Award.

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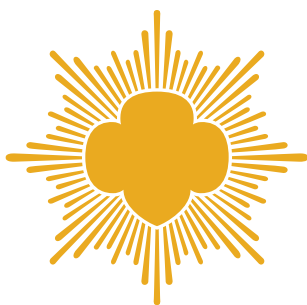
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