

 *Celebrating*
Gold Award Girl Scouts



Sachi A.

Lake Zurich
Lake Zurich Service Unit
Recycled Plastic Bench

Sachi's Gold Award project addressed the environmental impact caused by the improper disposal of plastic waste. Thanks to Sachi, over 500 pounds of plastic bags were collected through a collaboration with schools, businesses, companies, and public services. The recycled bags were then turned into a park bench which was placed at a local park. Sachi also empowered younger generations to learn and reflect on plastic waste by educating and engaging both preschool and high school classrooms through recycled-focused discussions and games!

girl scouts 
of northern illinois

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Grace B.

West Dundee, IL
Fox Tales Service Unit
Genealogy Center

Grace's Gold Award project aimed to improve everyone's access to family genealogy and family military records. Researching and presenting ways to access overall genealogy and family records, Grace was inspired to help her community grow by learning more about their ethnicities, heritage, and family story. Grace collaborated with her local historical society and VFW to explore current genealogical tools for her community and created instructional guides on their use. Guests of the historical society frequently use the guides Grace created and her referenced genealogy programs and resources!

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Kathryn H.
Sycamore
Double Tree Service Unit
Spartan Thrift

For her Gold Award project, Kathryn created Spartan Thrift Store in her high school. The store includes clothing for anyone, including shoes, accessories, and seasonal items for prom, homecoming, performances, and presentations. Everything is priced at five dollars or less. For students needing extra support, everything in the store is free and includes access to additional hygienic supplies. Students may schedule private times to shop, if preferred. All thrift items are donated by the community with unusable items being recycled, helping to reduce waste.

Spartan Thrift partnered with Sycamore's ABLE program for students with intellectual and physical disabilities. This helped ABLE students practice job readiness by stocking a store and learning customer service. The store also partnered with Sycamore's Spartan Food Pantry to give students in need easier access to additional support if needed. Spartan Thrift is going strong staffed by current students and staff members!



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Kaitlin L.

Maple Park
Trefoil Service Unit

**Launching Girls' Curiosity
in STEM by Creating
Hi-Tech MakerSpaces at
Camps Dean & McCormick**

Kaitlin wanted to inspire girls to be a part of the cutting-edge future in STEM using Girl Scout badges. She realized GSNI did not have the equipment and tools for these badges or a place for girls to work on them. For her Gold Award project, she created Tech Camp GSNI. She worked with GSNI and led a team of over 50 volunteers to create Maker Spaces at Camps Dean and McCormick. At Camp Dean, her team renovated White Tail Lodge and brought in robotics, tablets, a smart TV, 3D printer, microscopes, sewing machines, and more. At Camp McCormick, her team set up two Maker Space cabinets in the Welcome Lodge stocked with hi-tech equipment.

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Alaina N.

Aurora
Circle of Friends Service Unit
Creators league

Alaina's Gold Award project addressed the increase of mental health concerns in teens and tween girls by providing safe and creative spaces to express oneself through art. Through research viewing the social and mental health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Alaina saw a decrease in opportunities and communities promoting healthy coping mechanisms for young women. Taking inspiration from her own interest in art, Alaina created mental health-based workshops utilizing art lessons and techniques. The new artists had the opportunity to display their work in a community art show hosted by Alaina and her team!



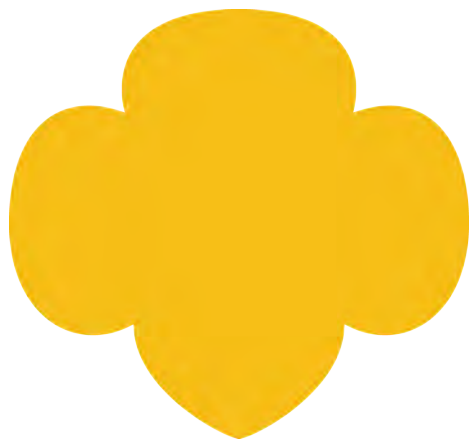
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Katrina R.
Village of Lakewood
North Star Service Unit
Sleigh Bells Ring
Extravaganza

Katrina was concerned about local students lacking funds to purchase new clothing and accessories for both band and chorus. For her Gold Award project, she created Second Verse Clothing Closet in the school's band room. To stock the closet, she promoted and hosted a donation drive for gently used concert attire and marching band accessories at the Sleigh Bells Ring Extravaganza and during her school's Spring Concert Week. Once the closet was fully stocked, she advertised it in a welcoming and friendly manner to make sure students felt comfortable using the new resource! The closet will be sustained through ongoing school advertising and the National Honor Society hosting a similar drive each year.

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Kate S.

Lake Zurich
Lake Zurich Service Unit

**Sensory Boxes for
Developing Brains**

Kate wanted to encourage creativity, exploration, and problem-solving in local elementary school-age kids. Her Gold Award project was the creation of “unplugged” sensory boxes to inspire children to use their minds in exploratory ways while thinking productively, as opposed to relying solely on visual technology. She included items in the boxes to ensure children would be excited to do something not related to technology. Boxes were designed to benefit children in sensory exploration, improvement of fine motor skills, cognitive development, and keeping calm. Kate researched items to place in the boxes, including something to touch (such as fidget spinners), smell (such as scented play dough), hear (such as a music box), and look (positive images). Kate also wanted to provide a safe way for children to deal with mental health-related challenges.

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Kathleen T.

Woodstock
Potowatomi Service Unit
Recycling and Life Skills

Kathleen's Gold Award project tackled the lack of a recycling program at Harvard Jr. High School. She worked with the administration, and her team was able to place recycling bins in all the classrooms! Kathleen also created a program for life skills and general education students to work together each week to empty bins and collect all recycling in the school. Additionally, the recycling volunteers all met for fun and games where life skills and general education students played together and enjoyed each other's company!