

# GSNI Recognition Event

Honoring • Girl Scouts • Troops • Leaders • Volunteers • Community Partners



July 18, 2021

Camp McCormick ~ Friendship Center

1:00 P.M.

girl scouts   
of northern illinois

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girl scouts  
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We're Hiring!  
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# Welcome

Hello!

We are excited to recognize so many of the Girl Scouts, volunteers, and community partners of Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois who continue to demonstrate true courage, confidence, and character as they make the world a better place!

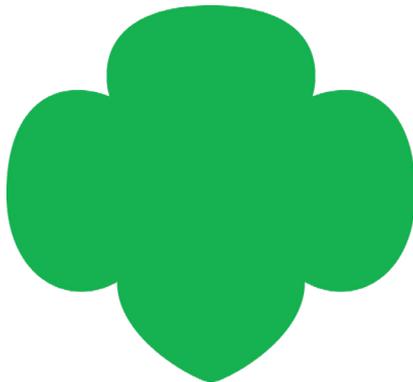
Today, we present our Gold Award Girl Scouts along with our graduating Girl Scouts. These young people have all faced unique and daunting moments in our Movement's history and have shown remarkable resolve, perseverance, and strength. Our graduating Girl Scouts will continue to prove the Girl Scout Leadership Experience as they take their place among our proud alums across the world. Our Gold Award Girl Scouts have left their mark on the world and shown us all how remarkable they truly are. Thanks to them, we have bright hope for the future!

GSNI could not exist without dedicated, caring, and invested volunteers, and we simply have the best.

These amazing individuals volunteer their time, talent, and effort at all levels—our troop leaders, our service unit team members, our council committee members, our National Council Delegates, and our Board of Directors. The Mission of Girl Scouts could not happen without them, and they deserve recognition for their incredible contribution to our Girl Scout-led future. A special thank you to all our volunteers for their selfless gift to our girls, families, and communities.

We are also extremely grateful to our Girl Scout families and generous donors who support our girls in everything they do. Thanks to you, Girl Scouts have a space all their own, where their interests, their experiences, and their leadership is the top priority! Thank you for standing up for girls in your community and advocating for their voices to impact the future in positive and lasting ways.

Thank you for being with us today as we shine a light on some of these very deserving individuals!



# GSNI Scholarship Recipients

Each year through an application and interview process, GSNI awards scholarships to registered, graduating Girl Scouts who have been actively involved in Girl Scouting during their high school years. These girls have committed to furthering their education, demonstrated their understanding of the Girl Scout Promise and Law, and live by those values. Thanks to generous donors for providing GSNI's 2021 Scholarships.

## GSNI Ambassador Scholarships

Lauren Kohl, *Bartlett*  
Harley Miller, *Rock City*  
Briana Reagan, *Poplar Grove*  
Katherine Sanders, *Bartlett*

Jenna Strohschein, *South Elgin*  
Kaitlyn Tesdorff, *Rockford*  
Courtney Tietz, *Oswego*  
Julia Vogt, *Cary*

# Girl Scout Gold Awards - 2020

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the mark of the truly remarkable. It recognizes girls in grades 9–12 who demonstrated extraordinary leadership through sustainable and measurable Take Action projects. Since 1916, a Gold Award Girl Scout has been the dreamer and doer who takes “make the world a better place” to the next level. She’s driven, passionate, and optimistic. She’s the leader of tomorrow today. We are so proud of our Gold Award Girl Scouts!

We are proud to present 2020 Gold Award Girl Scouts!



**Maya Acevedo**

West Dundee, IL  
Broken Arrow Service Unit

## Ping Pong Club

Maya identifies communication as a vital part of life. “Communication can be found from where we grow up and how we interact with people around us to a global standpoint where countries are communicating with each other to perform. Many times, misunderstandings become big problems due to lack of communication.”

Maya identified the stressful atmosphere students find themselves in when cliques develop, along with the lack of communication and understanding students often have for peers outside their groups. She wanted to break down those barriers and introduce a safe space for students to escape the exclusive environment and communicate with people they might not have talked to in an everyday scenario.

Her solution? A Ping Pong Club! In leading her team of faculty, administrators, and students, Maya established an Executive Board to create guidelines and set goals for the club. The Executive Board also promoted the club to other students and posted information on their personal social media accounts. This inspired students to join the club and introduced a theme of inclusivity and communication to potential members!

The Ping Pong Club is now an established club at Harry D. Jacobs High School. The Executive Board will continue to work with the club’s sponsor, a faculty member, to ensure members are active and engaged, leading to club sustainability and growth!



**Angela Becker**  
Crystal Lake, IL  
Chippewa Service Unit

### Care Packages for Children in Crisis

Angela’s Gold Award project focused on the social and emotional needs of children suffering from child abuse and neglect.

Research told her child abuse can alter brain and body functions, resulting in mental illnesses and physical effects. She found many negative outcomes are less severe or avoided when a child is provided with social-emotional aid and community support.

Leading a community team, Angela developed care packages including items of comfort, friendship building, and entertainment for children experiencing homeless or fleeing for safer environments. Each package contained a Pass It On coin for children to share with others as a reminder that they are not alone.

“Some children struggle with relating to other kids. These care packages included opportunities for a friend connection to happen! The opportunity to do kind deeds for others provides a sense of control over their own life situations.”

Project beneficiaries Home of the Sparrow and Turning Point will carry on addressing the needs of these children through continued use of the Pass It On coin.



**Paige Bowman**  
Barrington, IL  
Barrington Service Unit

### Harvesting for Monarch Butterfly Way Stations

Paige worked to address the issue of destruction and removal of milkweed plants in natural habitats, often due to lack of knowledge of the plant’s importance as a pollinator, especially for monarch butterflies.

“Milkweed is an essential plant for monarch butterfly migration and survival! However, it is being removed for reasons such as land development and the fact that it is poisonous to pets.”

Paige’s team educated over 500 people on a methodical milkweed harvest process, including benefits of increased monarch butterfly population. The team harvested 12,000 milkweed seeds and distributed over 300 seed packets with planting instructions!

The group also installed shelves for the Barrington Area Conservation Trust (BACT) and provided equipment to harvest and store milkweed seeds for annual planting. Barrington High School’s horticulture class and a BACT Coordinator will continue Paige’s project for future sustainability!





**Gabrielle Brewer**  
Poplar Grove, IL  
Park North Staline Service Unit

Gabrielle worked with “Hoo” Haven Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center to create an updated workspace for the non-profit’s staff and volunteers. “Hoo” Haven is dedicated to rehabilitating and releasing sick, injured, and orphaned North American wildlife.

Her project provided an efficient and functional workspace and opened extra room for more animals to be housed. This new workspace gives volunteers added space to prepare food for animals and can now accommodate volunteers who needed workspace adaptations!

Gabrielle and her team also created two videos to help the center. One will be used for educational purposes with school groups, for open houses, and on the center’s website. The second video highlighted “Hoo” Haven’s forever animals!

The center’s director and volunteers will maintain the newly designed workspace and use the videos to continue raising awareness and support for “Hoo” Haven’s animal-friendly mission!

**Counter-fit**



**Abigail Culloton**  
Bartlett, IL  
Cheyenne Service Unit

Abigail believes in environmental conservation and knows steps to reduce waste lead to a global impact. Seeing a lack of recycling at her school, she implemented a recycling program!

“By reducing waste produced in my school, I reduce potential pollution in my own community while educating others to be environmentally responsible.”

Abigail’s team identified a student population of 2,582 – completing paper assignments and eating lunch daily! The team used paper ream boxes as recycling bins. By the end of the year, recycling was being collected from 32 classrooms and all teacher offices. Almost 300 cubic feet of recycling was redirected from landfills weekly!

The project included a partnership with the school’s special needs classes. “To these students, it offered the experience to apply sorting skills in a real-life application as valuable practice for a future career.” The school’s Environmental Club and transition classes have agreed to continue this program for the future!

**Going Green:  
Recycling at South  
Elgin High School**

**Aspire Teen Conference  
goes to camp!**

October 23, 2021 • MaryAnn Beebe Center

See you at Camp!

Save the Date!



**Katrina Hammond**  
St. Charles, IL  
Blackhawk Service Unit

### Dual Language Game Nights and Resources

Katrina’s project addressed the lack of educational resources for biliterate students trying to learn Spanish and English.

“When students have resources to learn another language, they are practicing cognitive skills, learning how to better communicate, and becoming more culturally aware.”

Katrina assembled a team that created K–2nd educational game bags to teach colors, shapes, weather, and names of clothing and school supplies in English and Spanish. Katrina used these as she visited schools, preschools, and community locations.

“I wanted to create connections with teachers and students and give them the drive to learn more about different languages. The kids had fun and learned something new.”

The team created "Knowledge is Power" murals for Wayne Township Resource Center and Elizabeth Ide School in a variety of languages. This project will be sustained by Elizabeth Ide School, Ronald O'Neil Elementary, and the preschools.



**Brittney Hull**  
Bartlett, IL  
Cheyenne Service Unit

### Pollinator Garden

Brittney noticed a well-used street corner in her hometown had become overgrown with large bushes. The corner had become a driving hazard, and the overgrowth covered a community sign used to announce upcoming special events.

“Not only was it unsafe, but it did not accurately represent our community. I wanted to fix that!”

Brittney’s team worked with the Village of Bartlett and Bartlett Lion’s Club to redesign the garden area around the sign at the corner of Devon Avenue and South Bartlett Road. As part of her project, she planted pollinators, in hopes of bringing more butterflies, bees, and other pollinators to the area.

She included a QR code behind the new sign, so visitors can learn the benefits of pollinators and how important they are to a community.

The Village of Bartlett will maintain this garden!



**Tristan Keene**  
West Chicago, IL  
Blackhawk Service Unit

### Saving the Satos

Tristan’s passion for her Gold Award began with The Sato Project whose mission is to save the large number of stray dogs inhabiting Dead Dog Beach in Puerto Rico. She expanded her project to address the overpopulation of stray dogs in the world, working to educate others about spaying and neutering animals.

Tristan’s team included Rotary Club members, a veterinarian, several teachers, a dog rescue advisor, and students. She coached team members for two large community events to raise awareness of the project and encourage community members to support the cause by purchasing a specially designed T-shirt or bracelet.

The team’s efforts raised nearly \$350 which was used to purchase items needed by The Sato Project for the training and lifestyle of shelter animals.

Tristan’s project will be carried forward by the newly formed St. Charles East High School Club—“Saints Helping Animals”.



**Brigid Millette**

Campton Hills, IL  
Blackhawk Service Unit

## Stress Relief Kits

Brigid’s project addressed the lack of education regarding stress and mental illnesses, including harmful effect of stress. She wanted to impact students who might not have healthy coping methods or be tempted to seek out unhealthy ones.

“Since school can be demanding, it can be hard to de-stress while attending classes but being stressed while trying to learn is ineffective. I wanted to give students a way to handle their stress to make their day productive and positive.”

Through presentations and informational resources, Brigid raised awareness about the stress relieving kits she made for students. From stress balls to coloring pages along with counseling resources and crisis hotlines, the kits help students relax at school.

Kits also assisted teachers in introducing stress relief techniques to students. The Student Services Department in six schools have agreed to carry this project forward!



**Elizabeth Montano**

Montgomery, IL  
Genesis Service Unit

## Taste of Yorkville

Elizabeth’s project tackled prejudicial mindsets in her community. She believes the key to cultural awareness is the opportunity for others to learn about new cultures in a safe space! She decided to host a community event showcasing various diverse cultures, putting a spotlight on positive role models, and displaying how powerful it can be when cultures come together.

Elizabeth’s team organized “Taste of Yorkville”—an event spotlighting the impact and influence of the diverse cultures in the Yorkville community.

A large winter storm forecasted for the day of the event didn’t stop 15 booths, various sponsors, and performers from entertaining and educating nearly 500 people in Yorkville! Realizing youth is the key to change, the team offered children mini-passports, prizes, and games at the event.

The Bilingual Parents Advisory Council will carry this project forward as an annual event!



**Audrey Pack**

Aurora, IL  
Blackhawk Service Unit

## Inclusive Robotics Club

Audrey identified that families with children who have special needs don’t always feel welcome, especially in STEM activities. Her goal was to engage 3–5 of these students and their families in competitive STEM activities. Working with FIRST Illinois, Audrey led a team of professionals, parents, and other robotic team members, to create and mentor an inclusive group while preparing for a competition season and expo.

“By teaching kids at a young age to have an inclusive mindset, we are changing the future attitude of the broader community!”

Although the EXPO was postponed due to COVID-19, the team’s model of a programmed elevator and poster ranked at “meet” or “exceed” the expectations in the competition rubric! Audrey’s inclusive team helped both groups learn how to work together and communicate with kids who may, think, act, or communicate differently! This inclusive team will be continued by the Youth STEM Education Foundation.



**Victoria Rebbeck**  
Lake Barrington, IL  
Barrington Service Unit

### Science Class in a Box

For her Gold Award Project, Victoria engaged teachers and students in embracing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). She realized interests and instructional background vary among teachers, so her goal was to create a way for teachers to gain additional informational about science and teach them how to create more interactive experiments, fostering a love of science for elementary school kids!

Victoria and her team created Science Class in a Box materials encompassing various learning styles, as well as hands-on experiments with auditory and visual resources for an underfunded school. Her team also produced a YouTube channel for teachers which provided knowledge of STEM in the classroom and demonstrated how to set up STEM experiments.

Victoria's project advisor will continue the project and provide an annual STEM demonstration for students who receive the Science Class in a Box materials!



**Molly Rimm**  
West Dundee, IL  
Broken Arrow Service Unit

### FISH for our Furry Friends

Molly worked to educate her community on the importance of pets in need, specifically pets with owners struggling financially and at risk of giving up their pets because they cannot afford to take proper care of them.

"Pets help people stay calm and raise self-esteem, even in difficult situations such as financial strain. If people cannot support their pets and must give them up, this may impact the emotional strength they need to get through their hardship."

Molly worked with FISH (Friend I Shall Help), a local food pantry, to establish the location as a collection site with the ability to accept pet food and supply donations. She also partnered with PetVet, a traveling veterinarian, to provide discounted pet treatments for families in need.

Her project will be sustained by community groups who continue to collect and donate supplies to FISH.



**Raquel Roth**  
Montgomery, IL  
Aurora Service Unit

### Adventures with Alopecia

Raquel's project began with a personal passion as she worked to raise awareness about alopecia, a medical condition. Alopecia causes hair loss on the scalp or body. It is not contagious and happens when the immune system attacks hair follicles. The stress of being bullied often makes the condition worse. Sadly, Raquel has alopecia and was bullied by her classmates.

Raquel's project educated people about alopecia, including how common it is and the importance of living a stress-free life which can reduce alopecia effects. With the help of her team, she organized a Stress Less Fair with presentations by various health professionals on dealing with stress. Approximately 40 people attended the event!

Raquel's project will be sustained by six schools in the Aurora West and East School Districts that will use her informational DVDs and YouTube videos to continue educating others about alopecia.



**Lore Ann Sprouse**  
Algonquin, IL  
Osceola Service Unit

Lore Ann's Gold Award Project research showed an increase in human population is causing a decline in pollinators. Other factors decimating the pollinator population can be attributed to pesticides, habitat destruction, climate change, and monoculture. This rapid decline affects 150 crop plants that need pollinators! She partnered with the Crystal Lake Park District and coordinated a team to provide educational sessions on environmental impacts regarding the lack of pollen-producing native plants.

"Bees are responsible for 70%-90% of the pollination of fruits and vegetables. Fruits and vegetables are necessary for good nutrition for humans!"

Lore Ann's team also worked to plant a pollinator garden on protected land. This garden will provide a source of pollen-producing native plants to offer a sustainable and permanent food source for bees. The Crystal Lake Park District will maintain this project, ensuring the native plants are maintained for years to come!

### **Pollinator Garden at the Beach**



**Shelby Steichen**  
Hampshire, IL  
Apache Service Unit

Shelby wanted to address the lack of school supplies for students dealing with financial hardship. She worked with District 300 administration, teachers, students, and local businesses to establish a Caring Closet at Hampshire High School. Shelby's team determined how the closet could serve the most students, types of items it should contain, and how students could use the closet discreetly.

Through community education and support, donations of school supplies began to accumulate. The team sorted and inventoried items every week. The team also built shelves in the closet to keep it organized and restocked.

Shelby's project will continue, thanks to participating schools, teachers, and students from Avid (Advancement Via Individual Determination) and National Honor Society clubs who will host two donation drives a year to keep the closet fully stocked!

### **Caring Closet**

**Do you want experience working in youth development?**

- Are you ready to give back to your community?
- Do you need money for education?

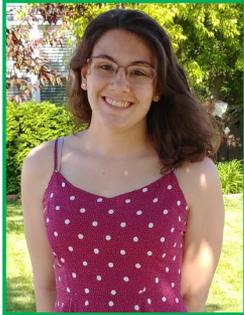
**Project Opportunity**

For more information, visit [girlscoutsni.org/ameriicorps](http://girlscoutsni.org/ameriicorps)

# Girl Scout Gold Awards - 2021

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the mark of the truly remarkable. It recognizes girls in grades 9–12 who demonstrated extraordinary leadership through sustainable and measurable Take Action projects. Since 1916, a Gold Award Girl Scout has been the dreamer and doer who takes “make the world a better place” to the next level. She’s driven, passionate, and optimistic. She’s the leader of tomorrow today. We are so proud of our Gold Award Girl Scouts!

We are proud to present 2021 Gold Award Girl Scouts!



**Abigail Covert**

Huntley, IL  
Winnebago Service Unit

## Bats: Why They Matter

Abigail’s project took an undeveloped, marshy, mosquito-filled area of her local park district and made it more welcoming and safer for visitors.

“Mosquitoes are not only a hassle for people at the park. They can increase the risk of vector-borne illnesses which can be fatal.”

From an ecological standpoint, Abigail knew her plan needed to include bats. As with all living things, survival depends on shelter. Abigail researched and found multi-chamber bat houses suited for her region and reputed to be occupied within the first year of installation.

Abigail’s team built and installed 12 bat houses at Crystal Lake Park District’s Shamrock Hills. Abigail knew she needed to work to change the minds of those who may not understand the benefits of bats. She created an informational brochure, including a link to her website, explaining the benefits of bats living among us. The brochure is now available to all Shamrock Hills visitors.



**Emily Hinrichs**

Thomson, IL  
Carroll Service Unit

## Project R.E.A.D.—Read, Enrich, Achieve, Discover

Emily’s project identified that reading for enjoyment has dramatically declined in the United States, especially in youth. The American Psychological Association found one-third of twelfth graders hadn’t read a book for fun in the past year.

“Reading long-form materials, like books, helps us develop critical thinking skills and understand complex ideas. Teens are missing out on cultivating these important skills.”

Emily wanted to enrich the reading for teens in her community. She worked with Odell Public Library to establish a Young Adult summer reading program complete with bingo cards and prize drawing. Books from the library’s Young Adult section were checked out for the first time in two years!

Realizing not everyone comes to the library, Emily also delivered books to the public via a repurposed newspaper stand located at Kelly Park and established Morrison’s first Little Free Library. Within 1 week, books were already changing!



**Lauren Kolasinski**

Tower Lakes, IL  
Barrington Service Unit

## Signs Make a Difference

Wanting to team up with a program that helped others led Lauren down the path to Walk On Farm, the home of eight specially trained horses that provide equine assisted activities. After interviewing a team of therapists, she learned about the power of a sign and their need for them.

“Often students look down at the horse which can steer the horse in the wrong direction, or worse, the rider could fall off.”

Signs for the indoor arena had to be easily communicated and aesthetically pleasing to keep the student’s focus. Signs also had to be placed allowing therapists to change or remove them, depending on the needs and ability of the student.

Lauren’s team designed, created, and placed 22 bold signs ranging from cardinal directions and shapes to a slice of pizza! She also created a flyer for Walk On Farm to share and help increase the awareness of all this facility has to offer.



**Julia Perrone**

Lake in the Hills, IL  
Winnebago Service Unit

## A Community Approach to Hunger

Julia’s project included teaming up with her town to fight food insecurity. What a great example of community action, especially during a difficult year for so many! Working with staff at Grafton Township Food Pantry, she identified a need for a distribution box, as well as the need for increased awareness.

Julia led her team in a multi-pronged approach to raise awareness for families experiencing food insecurity in her community. She was also able to share her informational flyer with the families of over 9,000 students. The food pantry saw an increase in donations following Julia’s efforts!

District 158 now has Julia’s flyer, as well as a link to the information about the Grafton Food Pantry, to help those in need or for those who would like to make a donation.



**Kiana Pouyat**

North Barrington, IL  
Lake Zurich Service Unit

## Golf, More than Just A Game

Kiana used her passion for golf to teach 7–13-year-olds the physical, social, and mental aspects of the game while enjoying the benefits of spending time outdoors and away from technology.

“Golf will push you to do your best even when it gets hard.”

Kiana and the Lake Zurich Golf Team instructed students through various stations and taught the importance of how to interact and compete against others in a friendly manner. The putting competition brought opportunities to instruct on the mental aspect of the game. With an audience, students competed to earn points for having their ball closest to the hole to win an extra prize.

Kiana’s team could see some students feeling the stress. Team members stepped in with support and a friendly reminder, “You have to do your best even when it gets hard.”



**Calliope Saban**  
South Elgin, IL  
Blackhawk Service Unit

### **Saving the Black Java Chickens**

It was on a visit to Garfield Farms, an 1840-era museum in LaFox, Illinois, where Calliope first heard of Black Java chickens. The farm’s goals are to preserve the history and natural environments of the farm, as well as the genetic diversity of the livestock they keep, hoping to help develop more sustainable ways to farm in the future.

“I did not know much about the conservation efforts for the Black Java chicken and figured a lot of people in my community weren’t aware either.”

Calliope and her team got to work creating an educational board for museum visitors on the history of the Black Java breed, how they were brought back from the brink of extinction, and their value as both pieces of history and sources of genetic diversity for chickens today. They also repaired the Black Java chicken coop, so this American heritage breed can continue to thrive on the 375-acre farm.



**Kathryn Sample**  
Elgin, IL  
Apache Service Unit

### **A Simple Stitch Goes a Long Way**

“Being part of a theater community allows kids to show their creativity on the stage.”

Kathryn took this sentiment off stage and beyond! Her project addressed the lack of performers’ productivity between the scenes of a theater production. Her idea to give kids something productive that promotes healthy friendships, encourages team building, teaches a new skill, and could be shifted virtually? Crocheting!

Christian Youth Theater (CYT) works to give back to the community, so Kathryn worked with them to identify those in need. Taking her findings back to the cast of Godspell, the performers felt the musical spoke to what was happening in the world today and decided they wanted to help the medical staff at Delnor Hospital. Beginning with a simple stitch, the cast crocheted ear savers to help make masks more comfortable!

CYT Coordinators will work with the cast of the next musical to identify a new community beneficiary.



**Gold Award Girl Scouts  
Class of 2019**



**Courtney Tietz**  
Oswego, IL  
Genesis Service Unit

### Sit! Stay! Come!

Enjoying time she spent training her own dog was the spark that ignited Courtney's project. She wanted to educate other teens about the importance of dog training from a safety and well-being perspective.

"Many dogs run away in their lifetime and risk end up getting hit by a car or even killed. Some animals end up in a shelter simply because they were never taught basic obedience."

Wanting to reduce the number of dogs affected by these situations, she took to writing and publishing her own online book to help encourage older kids and teens to take an active role in training their own dogs. She included different training methods and fun tricks!

Having to pivot her project due to no in-person training events, Courtney added tutorials and videos to her online book. She has had 149 readers! She also created a digital flyer for her book that will be shared on the Safford Veterinary Services website for anyone who may need to teach their own furry friend some manners.



**Elise-Marie White**  
Woodstock, IL  
Potawatomi Service Unit

### Inspiring You to Inspire the World

Being active in Girl Scouts, Elise knew the importance of community service and helping others, but she also knew it made her feel different about herself. Acts of Kindness—big or small—can have a positive impact on self-esteem.

"Middle school is the time where most kids have low self-esteem. I wanted to explain how they can boost their self-esteem by having fun volunteering."

Elise-Maire connected with the Volunteer Center of McHenry County, and her team got to work! They designed a pamphlet with information to help children find places to volunteer and give back to their community. The resource was creatively designed so it could also be used to initiate conversations with their family about mental health.

Working with the local school district, the pamphlet was shared with 600 families and will also be available in the Northwood Middle School's main office and social worker's office. The pamphlet will also be shared during PRIDE week at the school.



**Sarah Wiseman**  
Hawthorn Woods, IL  
Lake Zurich Service Unit

### Bake & Eat: A Family Affair 14

Sarah's project was an innovative take on getting kids active during the pandemic, learning how to make delicious homemade treats, and encouraging families to spend more time together.

"Baking together as a family can improve a family's mental health."

She stepped out of her comfort zone during this project and in front of the camera to bring high energy and excitement to 7–11-year-old attendees who registered for her baking classes through the Hawthorn Woods Park District. Sarah planned for her sessions by emailing parents the Zoom link and sending the recipe for each class. The kids in her baking class learned five delicious recipes, as well as life skills!

Donations made to attend the classes will help the park district continue classes by purchasing baking tools and ingredients for future, in-person events.

# Graduating Girl Scouts

GSNI is happy to present our graduating Girl Scout Ambassadors. Congratulations to each girl! May you take your Girl Scout experience with you wherever you go!

Sophia Abreu, *Carpentersville*

Alyxandrya Akers, *Cedarville*

Fatyma Alday, *Montgomery*

Molly Anderson, *Algonquin*

Valeria Arellano, *Davis*

Amber Arnold, *Aurora*

Shayla Barker, *St. Charles*

Bridget Benson, *Bartlett*

Zoe Blazier, *Elgin*

Molly Boerner, *Plano*

Summer Burkhart, *West Chicago*

Kaylee Busch, *Spring Grove*

Kyla Butler, *St. Charles*

Karyn Carrillo, *Elgin*

Hailey Christianson, *Byron*

Dana Crow, *McHenry*

Brianna Delatorre, *Aurora*

Hannah Dennis, *Algonquin*

Olivia Ebens, *Byron*

Gloria Elliott, *Maple Park*

Rose Felch, *Spring Grove*

Christina Fiedler, *South Elgin*

Addison Fielding, *Rockford*

Caitlin Foust, *Dixon*

Anna Freedlund, *Byron*

Elisabeth Goldie, *Freeport*

Amie Gravenstein, *Lena*

Molly Grossman, *Woodstock*

Nina Guarisco, *Deer Park*

Katherine Harris, *Aurora*

Hayley Hinkemeyer, *Crystal Lake*

Kathryn Hocking, *South Elgin*

Madilynn Hubble, *Sugar Grove*

Jessica Hyde, *Cary*

Katelyn Karner, *South Elgin*

Anna Kimble, *DeKalb*

Aria King, *Bartlett*

Morgan Kobernus, *Oswego*

Lauren Kohl, *Bartlett*

Natalia Kralicek, *Plano*

Gianna Kramer, *Pingree Grove*

Kendall Krich, *Huntley*

Ashley Lee, *McHenry*

Kayla Lemke, *Crystal Lake*

Emily Liautaud, *Woodstock*

Raegan Lubben, *Geneva*

Kate Lueck, *Richmond*

Nicole Marinucci, *St. Charles*

Kaitlyn Mauck, *Woodstock*

Samantha McDaniel, *Crystal Lake*

Emma Meyer, *St. Charles*

Ava Mieloszyk, *Aurora*

Harley Miller, *Rock City*

Nicole Miller, *South Elgin*

Sara Miller, *Stockton*

Abigail Neilan, *Lake in the Hills*

Sophie Nelson, *Round Lake*

Darcie Nestler, *Spring Grove*

Yadira Nevarez, *Montgomery*

Alana Newell, *Winnebago*

Mackenzie Opal, *Crystal Lake*  
Alicia O'Sullivan, *Byron*  
Allie Pentico, *Crystal Lake*  
Talia Petty, *Woodstock*  
Montana Pierson, *Forreston*  
Cassidy Potempa, *Poplar Grove*  
Briana Reagan, *Poplar Grove*  
Sara Regan, *Bartlett*  
Skylar Rhodes, *Rockton*  
Alexandra Riley, *Loves Park*  
Sofia Rios, *Elburn*  
Irene Robles, *Aurora*  
Alexis Rogganbuck, *Woodstock*  
Kearra Rozhon, *Cary*  
Lily Runyard, *Machesney Park*  
Isabella Rybialek, *South Elgin*  
Calliope Saban, *South Elgin*  
Reagan Sanchez, *Streamwood*  
Katie Sanders, *Bartlett*  
Maria Saucedo, *DeKalb*  
Geniveve Scarbrough, *Pingree Grove*  
Alyssa Schwengel, *South Barrington*

Kiona Scott, *Machesney Park*  
Faith Seal, *Pingree Grove*  
Sarah Shannon, *Lake Zurich*  
Hannah Shea, *Aurora*  
Josanne Smith, *Byron*  
Keiana Smith, *Crystal Lake*  
Amanda Sorenson, *South Beloit*  
Lore Ann Sprouse, *Algonquin*  
Regan Stoll, *Machesney Park*  
Paige Stolp, *Belvidere*  
Jenna Strohschein, *South Elgin*  
Kathryn Tegel, *Crystal Lake*  
Kaitlyn Tesdorff, *Rockford*  
Alexa Thomason, *Poplar Grove*  
Courtney Tietz, *Oswego*  
Madison Tousey, *Crystal Lake*  
Allison Troy, *Sycamore*  
Julia Vogt, *Cary*  
Elizabeth Warren, *Kildeer*  
Wendy Wechselberger, *McHenry*  
Asha Wiggs, *South Elgin*  
Kaitline Wright, *Roscoe*





## President's Volunteer Service Award

*The President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes United States citizens and lawfully admitted permanent residents of the United States who have achieved the required number of hours of service during a specified time frame.*

**Peggy Bartelt**

**Erin Berry**

**Annabelle Blevins**

**Hillary Blevins**

**Karen Harris**

**Natasha Keisler**

**Betty Moore**

**Isabelle Olivas**

**Olivas Family**

**Stephanie Olivas**

**Sue Reimer**

**Kim Shrader**

**Karen Tatlock**

## Community Partner Awards

**There's Fun in Store**

**Blackhawk Moving and Storage**

**City of Lanark**

**Hickey's Corner Store**

**Martin Chevrolet**

**Restoration 1**

**Boone County Conservation District**

**Clay Monet**



## Volunteer of Excellence

*The Volunteer of Excellence Award recognizes those volunteers who have contributed outstanding service while partnering directly with girls in any pathway to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through use of the national program portfolio, or who have contributed outstanding service in support of the council's mission delivery to girl and adult members.*

### **Apache**

Kristine Henderson  
Heather Thomas

### **Arapaho**

Courtney DeRisi

### **Aztec**

Deb Janssen  
Adam Koester  
Marissa Lapekas  
Liz Oppewal  
Trudee Wieting

### **Barrington**

Kathleen Choi  
Rebecca Patchak  
Catherine Spohnholtz  
Rupal Upadhyay

### **Batavia**

Kathleen Kuchta  
Kimberly Pearce

### **Boone**

Nina Stout  
Judy Thomason  
Lori Walton

### **Cheyenne**

Cori Kurzynski  
Sarah Mahler  
Martha Wheeler

### **Chippewa**

Bobbie Bredemeier  
Michael Campbell

### **Circle of Friends**

Rozella Poi  
Robin Witt

### **Gemini**

Amy Montrose

### **Genesis**

Kimberli Balder  
Cathy Perry  
Shannon Reynolds

### **Kaskaskia**

Staci Bumgarner

### **Lake Zurich**

Brook Cheek  
Ann Kidd  
Linda Knoll  
Sharon Koppa

### **Osceola**

Raegan Milan

### **Park North Stateline**

Amber Morgan

### **Pleiades**

Deena Boerner

## Quapaw

Peggy Berlin-Sena  
Tina Rizzo

## Southeast Valley

Lindsay Bear

## Spring River

Terissa Calusen

Melissa Clark-Totzman  
Jessica Glawe

## Whiteside—Carroll

Jordann Langner  
Stephanie Olivas



### Appreciation Pin

*The Appreciation Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. This service which has had measurable impact on one geographic area of service, helps reach and surpass the mission-delivery goals of the area.*

## Arapaho

Lisa Shoemaker

## Barrington

Margaret Karolyi

## Broken Arrow

Maredith Feldshau

## Chippewa

Jennifer Warfel

## Genesis

Beth Bustard  
Erin Tallman

## Geneva

Shannon Baird

## Lake Zurich

Renee McBride

## Quapaw

Barb Bottenhagen  
Amanda Kasik

## Spring River

Caroline Compton  
Jennifer Hauch  
Olivia Petitt

Join us  
for fishing fun!



## Family Fishing Derby!

Cost is \$7.00

SCAN,  
to register!



Register by:  
September 5, 2021

girlscouts  
of northern illinois

Sunday,  
September 19, 2021

6:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  
Awards at 12:30 p.m.

Baumann Park,  
Cherry Valley, IL



Let's go fishing!



## Honor Pin

*The Honor Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, which has had measurable impact on two or more geographic areas of service, allowing the council to reach and surpass its mission-delivery goals.*

## Blackhawk

Emily Varsho

## Doubletree

Tracy Hooper

## Council Board

Janie Jenkin

Kim Kuborn

## Park North Stateline

Amanda Guffey



## President's Award

*The President's Award recognizes the efforts of a service-delivery team or committee whose exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience surpassed team goals and resulted in significant, measurable impact toward reaching the council's overall goals.*

## Arapaho Door Drop Program Committee

*Committee Members: Jamie Boswell, Amanda Grabow, Kristy Harper, Jennifer Ingrassia, Stephanie Kinser, Samantha Majewski, Kelly Pederson, Tiffany Ronimous, Lisa Shoemaker, Erin Szczepanik*

To help with Girl Scout member retention in the Arapaho Service Unit, this generous team provides Door Drop activities for all Girl Scouts in Arapaho. Packages are purchased, assembled, and dropped on the porch of each girl separately.

"No Girl Scout left behind!" is their motto, especially during times when some Girl Scouts may not be getting any kind of Girl Scout activity with their troop. This required excellent teamwork with routing the McHenry neighborhoods to coordinate drivers for every Arapaho Girl Scout.

One activity was "Cupcake in a Mug" to celebrate Juliette Gordon Low's birthday. Over 60 Girl Scouts posted their smiling faces and their mug cakes with a candle on top to remember our founder to the service unit's private Facebook page. The girls really felt like they were part of the Girl Scout Movement!

## Boone Rope Runner Committee

*Committee Members: Michelle Dixon, Michelle Michelsen, Halee Morris, Patti Potempa, Diana Ward, Donna Whitlock*

Boone's Rope Runner event served nearly 30 girls with the help of a dozen adult volunteers! Girl participants ranged from grades 1 through 9. The event theme

was “Inspire”, and participants came up with many creative ideas! Girls had the opportunity to practice on the event course before the event, and it was evident they took pride in designing their own rope runners.

After the official event wrapped, the girls didn’t want the fun to stop. So, the committee encouraged the girls to race their rope runners against whoever they wanted! By the end, everyone had raced everyone! It was such a good time the girls and their families are ready to start planning next year’s event.

## **Cheyenne Service Unit Team**

*Committee Members: Sherri Arns, Susan Arns, Jodi Blake, Laura Bower, Andrea Crone, Jennifer King, Cori Kurzynski, Amber Lureau, Yvonne Mundorf, Kimberly Robinson*

Pre-pandemic, the Cheyenne Service Unit consistently met their goals by providing GSNI-inspired events such as cookie rallies, cookie bake-offs, registration rallies, school recruiting events, rope runner races, highest award ceremonies, Girl Scout Birthday week activities, and day camps.

Cheyenne has dependably met their girl and adult member goals—both new and retained. The service unit participates in the Fall Product Program and the Girl Scout Cookie Program. In 2020, Cheyenne met their Fall Product Program goal for the first time in several years!

The service unit pivoted to provide events held in line with pandemic restrictions including participation in Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend with a recruiting focus, a drive-by recruitment event, and several virtual activities including a game night along with several upcoming badge workshops and a service event!

Everyone in the service unit benefits from the Service Unit Team. Cheyenne has just under 50 troops and approximately 500 adult and girl members. Adults in troop leadership roles and those volunteering as Fall Product or Cookie Coordinators benefit from additional programming and guidance. The service unit is also proud to be girl-led as Girl Scouts from Daisies through Ambassadors help to coordinate, produce, and participate in service unit events!

## **Double Tree’s Santa Search Committee**

*Committee Members: Ryan Hooper, Tracy Hooper, Megan Zamora*

The Santa Search was a wonderful event that helped Girl Scouts and their families have fun outside during the pandemic. Nearly 200 people participated from GSNI’s Sycamore, Genoa, and DeKalb-area service units, in conjunction with the Sycamore Park District.

Participants received a list of addresses to visit. Each location connected to a question, something to look for, or an activity to do. Families especially enjoy seeing holiday decorations throughout the community and other Girl Scouts safely from a distance. The biggest surprise was seeing Santa at the end of the search!

The committee worked hard during the pandemic to create this fun activity which could be done away from a computer screen. Participants were so grateful for

the opportunity to be outside, running under lighted arches, and seeing all the decorated houses. One volunteer remarked, “There was just something about seeing smiles and hearing voices in-person that made the experience so much better given the times we’re in right now!”

## **Genesis Service Unit Team**

*Committee Members: Kim Balder, Beth Bustard, Trish Goodnough, Lori Janis, Liza Johnsen, Kim Mantey, Cathy Perry, Shannon Reynolds, Cory Sedlacek, Erin Tallman*

After a time of change in the Genesis Service Unit, these volunteers stepped up to fill all available roles and create an environment of inclusion, collaboration, and support. Each member of the Service Unit Team is excited to be in their position and fully committed to their role. The service unit was even able to start nine new troops with the help of the Onboarding Coach!

The Onboarding Coach was joined by the Service Unit Managers, Volunteer Mentors, and others from the Service Unit Team for a virtual meeting with all new leaders to help answer questions and provide ideas.

Recently, the Recognition Chair created a PowerPoint presentation with information about recognitions and the nominating process to present at the service unit meeting. The team has also decided to determine their own recognition awards for volunteers!

The Genesis Service Unit Team holds separate team meetings prior to service unit meeting to make sure everyone is on the same page and aware of all things happening in the service unit. Even during the pandemic, the team planned fun virtual and safe in-person activities to provide opportunities for local troops!

## **Jon Duerr Volunteer-Led Day Camp Committee**

*Committee Members: Sandra Addison, Tammy Bognetti, Patricia Doran, Kendra Pingel, Shannon Sullivan, Sue Tobin*

In 2020, it was uncertain whether Jon Duerr Day Camp would take place due to pandemic restrictions. Despite the added guidelines and restrictions, the committee for Jon Duerr Day Camp felt it was important to provide some type of camp experience to those who were interested.

To accommodate the most girls safely, the committee held a morning and afternoon camp session. While girls did not go as long during the day as they were accustomed to in the past, the inspirational saying at camp was, “Some camp is better than no camp!”. The camp still taught girls the outdoor progressions—with some new adaptations for health and safety.

The camp committee and all volunteers involved had additional guidelines to follow and extra sanitizing took place. However, the smiles on the girls’ faces were worth it!

## **Lake Zurich Service Unit Team**

*Committee Members: Jennifer Edwards-Amberg, Sara Guarisco, Suzanne Hilton, Kristi Jalove, Sharon Koppa, Rebecca Matthews, Renee McBride,*

*Mandy Morris, Francesca Ogilvie, Erin O’Leary, Jen Rattie, Laura Rogers, Whitney Smith, Lisa Wiseman*

The Lake Zurich Service Unit has made great strides in programing and volunteer support over the last year! The service unit has put a special focus on improving registration numbers each year and was recently named the top service unit at GSNI. They met early registration goals by making a concerted effort to contact all troop leaders with lagging re-registration numbers through multiple outlets to encourage re-registration.

When the pandemic made in-person meetings impossible, the Service Unit Team collected virtual meeting and online resources for their leaders, even prior to those available from GSUSA and GSNI. The team periodically posted new meeting plan ideas and reviewed resources during online service unit meetings, including ideas and resources for every part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. The team also developed an annual plan of activities that includes an event every month for volunteers and girls. During the pandemic, the team provided instructions for alternative options, so troops could hold events on their own.

The service unit hosted a Fall Camporee which served over 50 girls and 25 adults from 10 troops at Mary Ann Beebe Center. Participants were able to safely enjoy archery, ziplining, crate stacking, and tomahawk throwing. Lake Zurich’s annual Pajamarama JGL Birthday Party was moved to an online event for nearly 100 girls and 15 adults, collecting 116 pairs of pajamas for charity. Instructions were also provided for troops to hold their own safe versions of the service unit’s Yule Log event.

The team has worked hard to have streamlined and effective communications. They instituted monthly newsletters to membership and leaders and created a new website, which includes information for prospective Girl Scout families about Lake Zurich troops, resources to help all leaders, event information, and platforms for online events.

## **Osceola Day Camp Committee**

*Committee Members: Elizabeth Dixon, Kelly Frank, Cathy Hahn, Raquel Hakkenberg, Jessica Hodge, Lynn Konzen, Raegan Milan, Raquel Wynn, Gina Wynn, Sue Zimmerman*

Thanks to the Osceola Day Camp Committee, girls in the service unit were able to attend camp virtually for a week! Virtual camp consisted of Zoom calls throughout each day along with activities to be completed as a group, as well as on their own!

Each girl was provided with a bag that included a camp T-shirt, craft supplies, badgework, bandana, and more. The girls had a blast, and virtual camp was a huge success! Favorite activities included a make-your-own-fort contest, most creative smores contest, and a “chalk your walk” contest. Girl Scouts in grades 1–8 completed badgework for three badges, and girls in grades 9–12 completed one full badge and most requirements for two more.

One volunteer says, “My favorite part was when we all gathered on a Zoom call and told stories of how each camper got their camp name. It was so fun to hear all the camp stories from the girls!”

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## Park North Stateline Think Like an Engineer Committee

*Committee Members: Erin Berry, Alicia Gronli, Amanda Guffey*

The Think Like an Engineer Journey program was produced from October 2019–December 2020. The first set of programming included the Journey planned for nearly 30 Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors in coordination with the local chapter of the Society of Women Engineers. Each meeting featured three different engineers who told their story about how they chose engineering and talked about what they do. Girls and engineers interacted throughout the activities and panel discussions.

Activities for the Journey were hands-on and spurred interest through the Discover and Connect methods. The first session was a movie about engineering and a quick design challenge to sort bouncy balls of different sizes. The session elaborated on what engineering is and what the design cycle was. The second session included a tour and manufacturing game at Collins Aerospace. The game featured making paper airplanes and delivering to customers. This reflected the idea of quality and manufacturing process in a fun, new way. The last session involved discussion of how to Take Action and deconstructing broken household items. Post-deconstruction, the group reflected on why and how the article was constructed, plus the sustainability of components. The Take Action project was to choose a type of engineer and a project for a summer day camp to describe that type of engineer.

These Take action projects evolved into activities for the Daisy, Brownie, and Junior Journey. This day was replanned into a virtual event, due to pandemic restrictions. Over 70 girls were provided with kits to work on individually or as a troop. Kits included instructions and information on an online platform to guide the girls through activities and interact with questions and progress. Three Cadettes and one Senior earned Program Aide hours by creating videos highlighting different types of engineers and then demonstrating their activities.

Each activity was supported by a Zoom call where girls could troubleshoot and

gain further understanding of their projects. Through the Journey, girls created frugal science microscopes, cranes, cars, catapults, completed water testing, and led circuits flashlights and ornaments! This program was generously sponsored through a grant by the Society of Women Engineers.

## **Phillips Park Day Camp Committee**

*Committee Members: Ashley Brewer, Jenny Mayton, Katie Pasch, Lana Wroten, Robin Witt*

Phillips Park Day Camp was one of very few day camps that took place in Summer 2020. It was a much smaller camp than in the past, but this dedicated committee felt it was important to provide a day camp for girls and families who felt comfortable attending one.

The committee worked hard to ensure pandemic guidelines were met in terms of group sizes, masks, and social distancing. Activities were modified, but the girls who attended were excited to still have a camp experience. All camp volunteers were committed to offering camp in a safe way, even if it meant more work on their part. Outdoor progression and valuable camp skills were still taught, and everyone was appreciative of the opportunity to attend camp during a very difficult time.

Campers learned new outdoor skills, were able to spend time outdoors in nature, and some even experienced new leadership opportunities! The end of camp included an official flag retirement ceremony for the flags of GSNI's previous Sugar Grove Resource Center. Volunteers noted this is something the girls will always remember, as it teaches them the importance of the flag and how to respectfully retire a flag.

## **Spring River Space Badge Committee**

*Committee Members: Marge Blake, Jessica Glawe, Olivia Pettit*

This committee created a special event to introduce Girl Scouts to all the Space STEM badges for Daisy and Brownie levels. Activities included making a moon cycle with glow-in-the-dark paint, creating mini volcanoes with a chemical reaction, singing, and even finger painting!

The team led every participant through all the requirements even having to adapt to pandemic restrictions. The event was originally rescheduled due to weather and had to be rescheduled again due to restrictions. The team met and talked about how they could best bring this event to girls. Eventually they decided each girl would get her own event box with all the supplies needed to achieve each badge. They would then meet and complete activities through a Zoom call.

The success of this event helped local girls and troop leaders realize Girl Scouts did not need to come to a standstill during the pandemic. One volunteer remarked, "While this may not be the way we want to lead our girls, and this may not be the way we want to do Girl Scouts, we are all able to still come together and connect virtually. We are all able to still learn and be here for our Girl Scout family."

## Spring River Service Unit Team

*Committee Members: Marge Blake, Caroline Compton, Jessica Glawe, Jennifer Hauch, Tiffany Mlsna, Olivia Pettit, Melissa Toltzman*

This hard-working team met as a group and individually via Zoom many times to figure out how to best serve girls in the service unit once pandemic restrictions went into place. Team members created quality monthly leader meetings, all via Zoom, once the pandemic hit. They included team building activities leaders could take back to their troops, along with events either via Zoom or “in-a-box” style, along with badge activity education at each meeting.

The team hosted a Leader Holiday Party with games and prizes via Zoom and a Leader Appreciation BINGO Night with prizes to keep leaders engaged during the pandemic. They also provided gift cards instead of gifts for their annual community service to the Adopt an Angel program.

Team members had to think creatively to produce events for girls while under quarantine restrictions. When they couldn't hold their highest awards and bridging event, they created a video to share with the service unit, making sure to honor each girl and troop involved. They re-created their “Girls 4 Change” Camporee, so girls could learn about the women's suffrage movement. They even generated a mock voting with lollipops, so each girl could learn about voting from home. There was also an educational guided Me & My Guy Hike at camp with limited capacity. Groups of 10 were allowed to hike by signing up for different time slots, turning a normal 2-hour event into a full afternoon event. In addition, they hosted “in a bag” style events “Make an Ornament/Give an Ornament” and a Cookie Fun Fair with activities for girls to get excited about the Girl Scout Cookie Program!



### Thanks Badge

*The Thanks Badge honors an individual whose ongoing commitment, leadership, and service have impacted the council or the entire Girl Scout Movement.*

## Erin Berry

*Nominated by Michelle Rossi*

Erin has supported the delivery of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through her two troops, Park North Stateline Service Unit, Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, and Girl Scouts of the United States.

One specific example of Erin's exemplary delivery of the GSLE is how she practices what she preaches. When she sees a need, she fills it. GSNI installed gnomes at Camp McCormick but—due to the pandemic—was struggling with getting girls to go to camp. Erin knew leaders liked packaged programs that directly related to badgework and were differentiated for different levels and abilities. So, she—along with her daughters—went to camp with her GPS and created a gnome seeking mission, the official GSNI Gnome Hunt! She collaborated with GSNI Director of

Property, Jason Jones, and the GSNI Program and Retail Teams to design, produce, and offer a “Hanging with My Gnomies” fun patch that has proved to be extremely popular!

## **Tiffany Mlsna**

*Nominated by Jessica Glawe*

Tiffany helped plan and create a virtual presentation for her service unit’s highest awards and bridging ceremony. The service unit had planned to host an in-person event and bridging at Camp McCormick, but pandemic restrictions made that impossible. Without implementing a video option, the recognition event would have been canceled. Tiffany found a way for the service unit to overcome this barrier and make the event virtual, so girls could still feel recognized for all their accomplishments.

Tiffany also helped GSNI by creating, planning, and implementing the Holiday Cookie Bake-Off competition. There is currently a cookbook in progress, including all recipes from entrants, that will be available to all!

When a troop in her service unit needed help for an event on Girl Scout history and tradition, Tiffany provided several retired badges, resource books, and educational materials. She was proud to be their resource hub for all things Girl Scouts!

## **Michelle Rossi**

*Nominated by Erin Berry*

Volunteer Erin Berry says, “As a troop leader, I have used Michelle as a facilitator. Her leadership experience is unsurpassed! One of my juniors stood on the edge of the Mary Ann Beebe platform for 15 minutes, terrified to go across the zipline. Michelle worked with her to step off. She was so proud of herself and promptly tried again. On the same trip, Michelle demonstrated how to safely light matches. Every interaction she has, she impacts girls with knowledge about the World Centers, highest awards, and future older Girl Scout activities. She sells the whole program and not just the moment.”

Michelle is a valued member of GSNI’s Apache Service Unit which includes over 400 registered Girl Scouts and 146 registered adults. She plans many well-attended events that offer different perspectives and coordinates with other service units, such as Broken Arrow where 45 girls attended a WAGGS badge event for Thinking Day.

Her STEW programming has supported over 175 leaders from multiple councils! Michelle inspires people with fresh ideas, infused with quality Girl Scout Leadership Experience backing, and provides a space for leaders to network. Her involvement with STEW makes it possible for leaders to feel refreshed, empowered, and able to network.

Michelle is well-rounded and her events, such as Bridging at Dean, serve Girl Scout families. Just this one event served over 45 families which gave them the opportunity to see camp and its merits for themselves!



## Thanks Badge II

*The Thanks Badge II is awarded to volunteers who have already received the Thanks Badge and who are actively giving service that impacts the council or the entire Girl Scout Movement.*

### Marge Blake

*Nominated by Jessica Glawe*

Marge has held many roles with Girl Scouts and continues to provide excellent service to her service unit and community. She has impacted countless girls and women in her area and continues to give her best time and time again!

Marge researched needs in the community to determine what programs troop leaders were struggling to do on their own. Next, she reached out to GSNI Preferred Partner Womanspace in Rockford, so she could offer special programs at their facility. These events included Junior Journey in a Day, Cadette Night Owl Badge Burst, World Thinking Day, and Girl Scout Birthday Pizza Party Event.

Many people were impacted by the pandemic, and there were changes to overcome to continue with the Girl Scout year and keep girls engaged. Working with her service unit, Marge made a plan with modifications to offer programs virtually. Thanks to her leadership, the service unit's Camporee was sorted into supplies per troop with detailed instructions from start to end. She also planned and implemented a Cookie Fun Fair "in a bag" event, so girls could learn the 5 Skills of the Girl Scout Cookie Program—plus get fired up about participating in cookie season during lockdown.

Marge worked with GSNI staff to implement recruitment events and get fliers for local schools during the pandemic, so families would know Girl Scouts was still going strong in their communities! During this stressful time, she also helped onboard two new service unit managers, so they felt comfortable starting their Girl Scout year. In addition, Marge is a proud member of the GSNI Recognition Committee.

### Bobbie Riley

*Nominated by Fiona Cummings*

GSNI CEO Fiona Cummings says, "In her Board roles for 12 years, Bobbie has been a wonderful deputy to Board Chair, Scott McCleary. She has also acted as my personal advisor and confidante from time to time but particularly during the design and implementation of the Long Range Property Plan (LRPP). This included decisions and investments for our camps, as well as the sale of our four legacy service centers and leasing of the new Resource Centers. Without her support and guidance, GSNI would not have the current camp portfolio nor the flexibility and modernity of our Resource Center portfolio."

GSNI's entire membership has been impacted by the LRPP. It has enabled camp improvements, which have continued even through the pandemic. Nearly every member has visited at least one GSNI Resource Center to purchase uniform

pieces, meet with staff, or take part in an activity. Bobbie, as Chair of the Property Committee, ensured GSNI gave strategic consideration to cost, attractiveness to members, and consistency with the Girl Scout mission to all property decisions and investments.

Additionally, Bobbie has been a very strong presence for GSNI fundraising activities. She has been a rappeler at both Over the Edge events at Pheasant Run Resort, as well as being a ropes volunteer. Bobbie has spoken at local fundraising events and hosted Geneva area fundraising events. Her significant volunteer contributions impact our local community and all GSNI members in a positive way!

## Bob Quimby

*Nominated by Fiona Cummings*

Bob was originally the auditor for GSNI legacy council, Green Hills Girl Scout Council in Freeport, for at least four years prior to the incorporation of GSNI. Following the merge, Bob joined GSNI's Board and has been a member of the Board for 10 years in various positions.

For the first four years, he held a Director-at-Large position and was a member of the Audit Committee. For the last six years, he has been the Council Treasurer and member of the Finance and Audit Committees, as well as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board. Bob's final term expired at the Annual Meeting in May 2021.

All volunteers, all staff, and all girls are impacted by the efforts of dedicated volunteer Board Members like Bob. If GSNI's finances are not properly recognized and accounts and audits not handled professionally, GSNI could lose its charter from GSUSA along with the ability to exist as a 501c3 non-profit organization. Bob is an acknowledged expert in the field of non-profit accounting, and GSNI has been extremely fortunate to have his knowledge, engagement, and guidance for 10 years.

Additionally, Bob enthusiastically supported many GSNI fundraising initiatives. His company not only sponsored several GSNI activities, but Bob himself went Over the Edge at Pheasant Run Resort as the oldest rappeler. Bob has also introduced GSNI to potential new Board Members, as well as provided many sponsorship opportunities.

# Virtual Thin Mint Sprint

This is YOUR run or walk - any place, any time, any distance!



**Go to [girlscoutsni.org/tms](https://girlscoutsni.org/tms) for details and to sign-up! Then start running!**



## Hall of Fame Award

*The Hall of Fame Award recognizes a lifetime commitment to the Girl Scout Movement within Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois. The recipient has supported GSNI in a variety of ways including advocating for Girl Scouts in the community, volunteering in a variety of roles and financially supporting GSNI. The Hall of Fame Award can be given posthumously.*

### Scott McCleary

*Nominated by Fiona Cummings*

*Endorsed by Sue Reimer and Robin Witt*

Scott has been engaged with the Girl Scout Movement for more than 20 years. He hails from a family with multiple generations engaged in Scouting—both for girls and for boys. He began as a troop volunteer when his daughter was young and supported her troop for several years before becoming active at the governance level, first with GSNI legacy council Girl Scouts—Fox Valley Council and then for the last 10 years with GSNI.

GSNI CEO Fiona Cummings says, “Scott has been a wonderful Board Chair and mentor for six of the seven years I have had the privilege to be CEO. He really does go above and beyond to ensure the Board is fulfilling its fiduciary and generative duties, thus supporting the existence of the entire council. He ensures I and my staff are doing well professionally and personally. For the past six years, Scott and I have met every two weeks to discuss issues, concerns, and successes within the council to assure we are following agreed-upon strategies and budgets.”

Under his Presidency, GSNI implemented the Long Range Property Plan, Resource Centers, and pivoted to survive a pandemic, as well as plan for regrowth afterwards. There are layers of people affected by Scott's leadership and support. The Board recognizes him as an expert in Board and Council management, as well as the processes of running a Board that complies with state law and GSUSA requirements. Every year, Scott has taken his own personal vacation time to attend required conferences and courses with GSUSA.

Beyond the Board, Scott has an impact on GSNI staff through the formal governance process, as well as being an approachable personality, so staff and volunteers feel comfortable approaching him at events to learn more about him, his role, and GSNI.

Additionally, Scott was thrilled whenever he was able to attend girl events, which he did very frequently, to meet with Girl Scouts, explain his role, and hand out his "I Met the Board Chair" fun patch to the girls he met. Every GSNI Girl Scout's experience has been made richer by these interactions. There is no doubt Scott has met and had a positive impact on thousands of adults and girls involved in Girl Scouts over his 20 plus years with Girl Scouts!

# Membership Milestones

## 5 Years

Lindsay Bear  
Kayleigh Bear  
Nathan Berry  
Bobbie Bredemeier  
Rebekah Bumgarner  
Karen Harris  
Olivia Hauch  
Reece King  
Jasmine McCaskel  
Donna McCaskel  
Ryeleigh Milan  
Tina Rizzo  
Angie Rizzo  
Peggy Sena  
Lillian Sena  
Madeline Sena  
Lisa Shoemaker  
Abigail Shoemaker  
Olivia Shoemaker  
Julia Vogt  
Katie Vogt

## 10 Years

Barbara Bottenhagen  
Karen Eng  
Natasha Keisler  
Jennifer King  
Rylee King  
Jordann Langner  
Emily Liautaud  
Kaitlin Liu  
Harley Miller

Kelly Miller  
Cassidy Potempa  
Kiana Pouyat  
Calliope Saban  
Katie Sanders  
Karen Sanders  
Lore Ann Sprouse  
Kaitlyn Tesdorff  
Michelle Wiederholtz  
Trudee Wieting

## 15 Years

Sarah Poi  
Gabrielle Riley

## 20 Years

Patti Potempa  
Lynne Riley

## 25 Years

Sabrina Lewis  
Roz Poi

## 30 Years

Michelle Rossi

## 50 Years

Louise Glon  
Robin Henning

## Service Unit Goals

*The following GSNI service units met or exceeded one or more of the following goals: Girl Membership, Adult Membership, 2019 Fall Product Program, or the 2020 Girl Scout Cookie Program! Girl Scouts are great at setting goals and achieving them, and these service units are an example to today's girls in high achievement. They continue to enable more girls to have access to the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through their efforts. Congratulations!*

### Girl Membership

Blackhawk	Pottowatomie
Chippewa	Quapaw
Northern Ogle	Vega
Pleiades	Winnebago

### Adult Membership

Aurora	Pottowatomie
Barrington	Quapaw
Blackhawk	Spring River
Chippewa	Stephenson
Creek View	Vega
Northern Ogle	Wanauka
Osceola	Winnebago
Pleiades	

### Girl and Adult Membership

Blackhawk	Pottowatomie
Chippewa	Quapaw
Northern Ogle	Vega
Pleiades	Winnebago

### Fall Product Program Goals

Apache	Stephenson
Lake Zurich	Whiteside
Park North Stateline	WinDuPec
Quapaw	Wynonwy

### Girl Scout Cookie Program Goals

Apache	Menominee	Stephenson
Barrington	Northern Ogle	Vega
Batavia	Osceola	Wanauka
Blackhawk	Park North Stateline	Whiteside
Carroll	Pleiades	WinDuPec
Kaskaskia	Pottawatomie	Winnebago
Lake Zurich	Southern Ogle	Wynonwy



## Honor Troop

*The Honor Troop guidelines provide troops—girls and leaders—with a roadmap for the Girl Scout year. Following this roadmap leads to an exceptional experience and sets troops up for success!*

- Troop 22, *Woodstock*
- Troop 26, *McHenry*
- Troop 31, *Pecatonica*
- Troop 33, *Sycamore*
- Troop 73, *Lake in the Hills*
- Troop 121, *McHenry*
- Troop 129, *McHenry*
- Troop 143, *Cary*
- Troop 150, *Rock Falls*
- Troop 166, *Lake Zurich*
- Troop 174, *Sterling*
- Troop 178, *Hawthorn Woods*
- Troop 190, *South Beloit*
- Troop 191, *Belvidere*
- Troop 215, *Winnebago*
- Troop 237, *Lake in the Hills*
- Troop 268, *Pecatonica*
- Troop 275, *Elgin*
- Troop 319, *Sugar Grove*
- Troop 334, *Elgin*
- Troop 353, *Sycamore*
- Troop 519, *Crystal Lake*
- Troop 651, *Sycamore*
- Troop 877, *Pecatonica*
- Troop 912, *Sycamore*
- Troop 915, *Cary*
- Troop 934, *Algonquin*
- Troop 938, *Crystal Lake*
- Troop 968, *Cary*
- Troop 1168, *Rochelle*
- Troop 1189, *Freeport*
- Troop 1384, *Geneva*
- Troop 1409, *Lake Zurich*
- Troop 1503, *Sterling*
- Troop 1504, *Morrison*
- Troop 1527, *Crystal Lake*
- Troop 1539, *Carol Stream*
- Troop 1599, *Montgomery*
- Troop 1728, *Lake Zurich*
- Troop 1743, *Saint Charles*
- Troop 1873, *Barrington*
- Troop 1893, *Lake Zurich*
- Troop 1897, *Lake Zurich*
- Troop 1906, *Hawthorn Woods*
- Troop 1907, *Cary*
- Troop 1951, *Fox River Grove*
- Troop 2156, *Stillman Valley*
- Troop 2160, *Pecatonica*
- Troop 2178, *Shannon*
- Troop 2189, *Dixon*
- Troop 2219, *Roscoe*
- Troop 2228, *Belvidere*
- Troop 2230, *Belvidere*
- Troop 2244, *Belvidere*
- Troop 2354, *Byron*
- Troop 2335, *Island Lake*
- Troop 2340, *Lake in the Hills*
- Troop 2386, *East Dundee*
- Troop 3032, *Roscoe*
- Troop 3127, *Loves Park*
- Troop 4785, *Montgomery*
- Troop 5047, *Rock City*
- Troop 5146, *Rock City*
- Troop 5250, *Sterling*
- Troop 5352, *Lena*
- Troop 5410, *Orangeville*
- Troop 40619, *Dekalb*

# Save the Date!



girlscouts  
of northern illinois



## Fall Fest 2021



Date:  
**Oct. 9,  
2021**

Place:  
**Camp  
McCormick**



Let's go  
again!

June 4, 2022  
SupplyCore

**over the  
EDGE**  
2022  
4 GIRL SCOUTS

# Save the date!



# Coming Soon...

## Fall Product Program!



Create your avatar for your troop photo!

## Fall Product Dates to Remember:

**September 14:**

Early bird online orders begin

**October 4:**

In-person sales begin

**Back this year:**

Create your own avatar

**Look for:**

Meet the Mascot

New product announcement

Contests

Rewards



"Penny the Penguin"

## Virtual Cookie Kick-off 21/22



Premiering  
 YouTube  
December 11

# Thank You!

Congratulations to all of our Girl Scout award recipients! Thank you for all you do! Thank you to those who recognized how amazing these volunteers are!

*Let's continue to grow in Girl Scouting!*

## Recognition Committee

Thank you to GSNI's Recognition Committee for their dedication to appreciate GSNI volunteers every year!

Marge Blake	Maureen Mosca
Brooke Cheek	Patricia Potempa
Louise Glon	Sue Reimer
Annette Happ	Lana Wroten
Tiffany Mlsna	

## Flag Ceremony:

### Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### 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.

## Closing Ceremony:

### Make New Friends

Make new friends but keep the old,  
One is silver and the other gold.

**South Elgin  
Resource Center**  
353 Randall Road  
South Elgin, IL 60177

**Freeport  
Resource Center**  
1834 S West Ave., Suite 21  
Freeport, IL 61032

**Lake Zurich  
Resource Center**  
499 Ela Road  
Lake Zurich, IL 60047

**Rockford  
Resource Center**  
1886 Daimler Road  
Rockford, IL 61112

**Oswego  
Resource Center**  
3425 Orchard Road  
Oswego, IL 60543



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