

Girl Scouts of  
Northern Illinois

# Annual

 Meeting

2022

& Recognition  
event



## April 30, 2022

NIU Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center  
9:00 A.M.

girl scouts   
of northern illinois

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## GSNI Land Acknowledgement

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois recognizes that our camps and Resource Centers are located on the ancestral Native lands of Turtle Island, the original name for what now is called North America. Northern Illinois is the home of the Sauk, Meskwaki, Peoria, Kickapoo, Ho-Chunk, Potawatomi tribes, and more. GSNI is committed to developing partnerships and programs that honor and amplify the voices of Indigenous communities and learning from their knowledge. With that, we pay our respects to Indigenous peoples both past and present.

A Land Acknowledgement is a statement recognizing the lasting relationship between Indigenous peoples and their traditional territories. Recognizing the land is an expression of gratitude and way of honoring Indigenous peoples who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

Northern Illinois is home to one of the larger Native American communities in the United States living outside their lands in trust. The members of these Native American communities continue to share and celebrate their heritage, practice traditions, and care for the land.

The Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois are dedicated to the acknowledgement and preservation of Native American lands, and we seek to support indigenous communities with ongoing relationships with indigenous organizations and individuals.

# Welcome

Hello!

Welcome to Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois' 2022 Annual Meeting and Recognition Event. We are so glad you are here to celebrate GSNI's accomplishments over the past year!

The 2021 membership year continued to challenge troops, service units, and the council overall as COVID-19 pandemic restrictions continued and regularly changed. But, change doesn't stop Girl Scouts! Troops, volunteers, and staff continued to overcome obstacles and developed new ways of work. There were some good changes, too, and restrictions modified enough to allow us to begin our way back to normal, including summer camp programs.

As our 2021 membership year wrapped up, GSNI conducted the Appreciative Inquiry process, which was the basis for our strategic planning process and will provide direction to GSNI for the coming years. This process resulted in the development of five Action Teams—Older Girl Scout, Community Engagement, Communication and Brand Awareness, Recruitment Processes, and Hiring for Diversity. Each with a focus of ensuring everyone feels they have a place to belong.

Following today's business meeting, we will recognize volunteers whose contributions have made a significant difference in the lives of GSNI Girl Scouts. These outstanding individuals give generously of their time, talent, and effort at all levels. The Mission of Girl Scouts could not happen without them, and they deserve recognition for their incredible contributions to Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois.

We will also recognize our scholarship recipients, Gold Award Girl Scouts, and graduating Girl Scouts. These young people have accomplished remarkable things in a difficult time. We know they will continue to do great things as they take their place among our proud alums.

Thank you to all the volunteers dedicating their time to help our Girl Scouts become leaders! Thank you to all the Girl Scouts who are solving today's problems. Together, you are building a better tomorrow, and we are honored to be a part of your journey.



# Community Partner Awards

## **American Eagle**

*Contact: Crystal Greco*

*Nominator: Raegan Milan*

American Eagle in Algonquin has been a strong supporter of Troop 934. They have hosted both cookie booths and service project collection drives. Not only do they provide a great space, but they have provided support through social media posts offering contests and driving business to the cookie booth. They go out of their way to be supportive, providing booth supplies such as a tent, hand sanitizer, masks, gloves, and signage. GSNI is happy to recognize American Eagle for its support of Girl Scout entrepreneurs!

## **Fox Valley Astronomical Society**

*Contact: Mark Wagner*

*Nominator: Jane Keene*

For the past three years, Mark and his crew at Fox Valley Astronomical Society have graciously helped with space-themed events hosted by GSNI's Fox Valley Service Unit. The first event at Norton Creek was incredible and served 200 Girl Scouts! They are always willing to help with space-themed events and have great programming and amazing volunteers. GSNI is happy to recognize Fox Valley Astronomical Society for its passion for encouraging Girl Scouts in STEM.

## **Roscoe United Methodist Church**

*Contact: Doris Troop*

*Nominator: Erin Berry*

Roscoe United Methodist Church has been a supportive partner of the Park North Stateline Service Unit for over 10 years! RUMC has hosted numerous service unit events as well as smaller activities such as Program Aide training and troop meetings. In fact, during COVID they welcomed troops who lost their meeting spaces and are hosting 12 troops. They welcome Girl Scouts as part of their community—incorporating Girl Scouts in their activities such as ice cream socials and trunk-or-treats. Their endless support makes Girl Scouting in the area possible! GSNI recognizes Roscoe United Methodist Church for its ongoing support of Girl Scouts in their community.

# SupplyCore

Contact: Nellie Miller

Nominator: Mel Margason

SupplyCore is our building partner for the 2021 and 2022 Over the Edge 4 GSNI. Not only do they allow the use of their building for free, but they also provided monetary donations. SupplyCore staff were heavily involved in planning for and volunteering at the event. Their maintenance department far exceeds expectations, working tirelessly the week of the event helping with set-up and take down.

GSNI has been extremely fortunate to partner with SupplyCore on our successful Over the Edge urban fundraiser. It's not every business that would allow Girl Scouts to rappel from their historical building, but SupplyCore is just as adventurous as Girl Scouts. They joined us in dreaming big and making something remarkable happen. GSNI thanks SupplyCore for investing in our Mission with enthusiasm and action.

## Service Unit Goals

The following GSNI service units met or exceeded one or more of the following goals: 2021 Membership Year Girl Scout and/or Adult Membership, 2020 Fall Product Program, or the 2021 Girl Scout Cookie Program! Girl Scouts are great at setting goals and achieving them. These service units are an example to today's Girl Scouts in high achievement. They continue to enable more young people to have access to the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through their efforts.

## 2021MY Girl Scout Membership

Jo Daviess

Osceola

Southeast Valley

## 2021MY Adult Membership

Barrington

Double Tree

Batavia

Northern Ogle

Broken Arrow

Pleiades

Circle of Friends

Wanauka

## 2021MY Girl and Adult Membership

Arapaho

North Star

Aztec

Park North Stateline

Boone

Potowatomi

Cheyenne

Quapaw

Chippewa

Southern Ogle

Fox Valley

Spring River

Gemini

Stephenson

Genesis

Trefoil

Geneva

Whiteside-Carroll

Kaskaskia

WinDuPec

Lake Zurich

Winnebago

Lee

Wynonwy

## Fall Product Program Goals

|           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| Apache    | Kaskaskia     |
| Arapaho   | Lake Zurich   |
| Aztec     | Osceola       |
| Blackhawk | Southern Ogle |
| Cheyenne  | Trefoil       |
| Geneva    | Winnebago     |

## Girl Scout Cookie Program Goals

|             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Apache      | Genesis              |
| Arapaho     | Kaskaskia            |
| Aztec       | Lake Zurich          |
| Boone       | Park North Stateline |
| Chippewa    | Southern Ogle        |
| Double Tree | Trefoil              |
| Gemini      | Wynonwy              |



### Volunteer of Excellence

The Volunteer of Excellence Award recognizes those volunteers who have contributed outstanding service while partnering directly with Girl Scouts 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 youth and adult members.

### Arapaho

Amanda Grabow  
Tiffany Ronimous

### Aztec

Clare Barton  
Rita Vanderwaal-Dawson  
Patricia Matthews

### Batavia

Kathy Kuchta

### Cheyenne

Denise Lippe  
Cindy Sanchez  
Danette Whyte

### Genesis

Lori Janis  
Kim Mantey  
Trisha Goodnough

### Lake Zurich

Katie Kiehn  
Rebecca Matthews

### Lee

Stephanie Kuhn-Donald  
Rebecca Koehler

### Osceola

Jessica Hodge

### Park North Stateline

Emily Miller



Pleiades  
Nikki Pehlke

Southern Ogle  
Jennifer Robinson

Stephenson  
Glenda Whitson

WinDuPec  
Brenda Bomgarden  
Cassie Elliott  
Katie Ward



## 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.

Barrington  
Sarah Collins

Batavia  
Mandy Faretta-Stutenberg  
Kim Pearce

Cheyenne  
Sherri Arns  
Laura Bower  
Jennifer King  
Yvonne Mundorf  
Kim Robinson  
Lisa Strauss

Circle of Friends  
Ashley Brewer

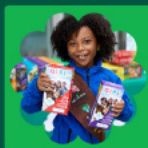
Genesis  
Whitney Brewer  
Dawn Getz  
Shannon Reynolds

Kaskaskia  
Marianne Koeppen

Lake Zurich  
Melissa Dominguez  
Sharon Koppa

Park North Stateline  
Amber Morgan  
Sarah Nelson

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# We're Hiring!

SCAN for your next career!





## 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.

**Barrington**  
Betsy Scott

**Southern Ogle**  
Karin Podolski

**Fox Valley**  
Shannon Bell

**Whiteside-Carroll**  
Brenda Bryant

**Quapaw**  
Barb Bottenhagen

**Winnebago**  
Stella Duchon



## 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 Events Committee

*Committee Members: Courtney DeRisi, Amanda Grabow*

This team consistently provides events that encourage members to be outgoing, caring, and dedicated to the Girl Scout way. They also make ample opportunities available for the entire service unit to give back and engage with the community. A small sampling of these events includes Junior NASCAR Automotive Badge, Festival of Lights, Cookie Rally, Toys for Tots Parade, Highest Awards ceremony, Open Houses to allow the community to learn about Girl Scouts, and so many more! Not only do they provide events that help Girl Scouts earn badges and Journeys, they have also become a staple to the Arapaho Service Unit by providing additional resources to help coach leaders.

## Chippewa Day Camp Committee

*Committee Members: Bobbie Bredemeier, Catherine Johnston, Angela McMeel, Meredith Santerelli, Betty Szwankowski, and Jen Warfel*

This committee exceeded its goal of bringing Girl Scouts back to camp and providing a great time while meeting the challenges of COVID. A variety of activities tied to the theme of "Camping with Art" taught basic camp skills and followed current COVID guidelines. The camp served Girl Scouts from kindergarten through seventh grade and provided Program Aide opportunities for those in grades 8–12. Participants were excited to be back



at camp and to see others in person. The true test of success was when all the campers said they couldn't wait to come back next year!

## **G&V Service Unit Day Camp**

*Committee Members: Dan Betz, Beth Bustard, Jennifer Byers, Alisa Carlin, Kristin Clark, Lilian Driscoll, Eric Essex, Megan Gentzler, Lauren Goode, Trisha Goodnough, Deb Haswell, Meridith Herrera, Kelly Hoke, Lori Janis, Tracy Johnson, Carrie Lapidus, Brandon McCline, Kim Mantey, Kim Mattern, Cathy Perry, Alejandra Phillips, Dorota Pstrucha, Shannon Reynolds, Coreen Sedlacek, Kyla St. Pierre, Erin Tallman, Sandy Thomas, Nicole Trackman, Natalie Ware, and Katie Young*

During a year of shutdowns and unknowns, these two service units pulled together a five-day outdoor camp for over 200 Girl Scouts through two sessions of camp. These volunteers were flexible and willing to do whatever it took to provide a safe camp experience, which for some Girl Scouts was their first camp experience. The camp served Girl Scouts in first grade through high school. The enthusiasm of the volunteers and helpers was infectious. Returning to a sense of norm was an experience in itself!

## **GSNI Historian Committee**

*Committee Members: Chris Alsip-Kostelc, Peggy Bartelt, Vicki Croffoot, Jan Devore, Denise Ethun, Mary Rose Fillip, Louise Glon, Marilyn Hartzog, Mary Ann Knoll, Cindy Kocol, Betty Moore, Terry Moore, Jody Niles, Patti Potempa, Sue Reimer, Colleen Rittmeyer, and Karen Tatlock*

GSNI's Historians are a busy group! Each member attends yearly educational offerings, and each member has a specialty—some enjoy the accessioning process, some the programming aspect, and some data entry. One group works with Girl Scout alums keeping them connected to Girl Scouts. They are often called on to research items, write articles for GSNI's social media channels and GSNI newsletters, and provide show and tell programs, displays, troop talks, and more. This year proved especially busy, as they received two collections from private donors, each having over 1,000 items that need to be accessioned, identified, and cataloged. All of this to keep our members and communities in touch with the Girl Scouts of today and yesterday!

## **GSNI Recognition Committee**

*Committee Members: Marge Blake, Brooke Cheek, Vicki Croffoot, Louise Glon, Annette Happ, Tiffany Mlsna, Maureen Mosca, Patricia Potempa, Sue Reimer, and Lana Wroten*

This committee dedicates itself to ensuring volunteers across GSNI are recognized for their outstanding service to Girl Scouts. They begin by promoting nominations at the service unit level and then work at the council level to review all nominations. They also help prepare for and present awards at the ceremony. In 2021, they worked with GSNI staff to hold a Recognition Ceremony separate from the Annual Meeting. This enabled them to hold an event for over 100 members that followed COVID safety guidelines.

## **GSNI Scholarship Committee**

*Committee Members: Miriam Fleig, Louise Glon, Louise Krist, Lisa Normoyle, and Linda Oshita*

Each year, through an application and interview process, the GSNI Scholarship Committee awards scholarships to registered, graduating Girl Scouts who have been actively involved in Girl Scouting during their high school years. Their communities and our council benefit from their commitment, service, and leadership. In the past four years, 85 Girl Scout scholarship applications have received both individual and group comprehensive reviews. This has resulted in 23 Girl Scout Ambassadors being awarded a \$500 scholarship towards furthering their education and the potential for 10 more awardees to be awarded this scholarship season.

## **International Woman's Day Special Gal & Me Quarantine Glam Night Committee**

*Committee Members: Marge Blake, Olivia Pettit, and Jessica Stobart*

This event was provided during quarantine as a way for Girl Scouts to have time with a special gal and learn more about celebrating each other on International Woman's Day (March 8). Girl Scouts chose activities to participate in and learned new things by doing hands-on activities in STEM and art while learning how to care for someone else and celebrating each other. Participants said it was a lot of fun and helped with the retention of youth and adult members in Girl Scouts!

## **Park North Stateline Program Aide Committee**

*Committee Members: Erin Berry, Amanda Guffey, and JeannieAnn Parma*

This committee coordinated Program Aide development in Park North over several years. Thanks to them, older Girl Scouts in Park North have developed the skills needed to plan and carry out events for younger members. Working under the direction of these women this past year, Program Aides have provided service unit opportunities, including a Girl Scout Way badge day, a grant-funded outdoor art program targeting current and potential Girl Scouts, and a cookie rally. Because of these volunteers, older Girl Scouts are taking on leadership roles, becoming positive role models for younger members, and demonstrating that there are Girl Scouts of all ages!

## **Spring River Cookie Rally Committee**

*Committee Members: Marge Blake, Bobbi Brown, Jennifer Hauch, and Melissa Toltzman*

This committee held an in-person Service Unit Cookie Rally. Through fun activities, participants learned important skills for a successful Cookie Program—goal setting, customer service, and product knowledge—as well as learning about the Girl Scout tradition of S.W.A.P.S. Members of Cadette Girl Scout Troop 1095 were also instrumental in making this event a success. Participants indicated they had fun and were ready and excited to become cookie entrepreneurs!



## Thanks Badge

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

### Jennifer Archer

*Nominated by Fiona Cummings*

Jennifer is a lifelong Girl Scout and Girl Scout supporter. As a girl member, her role in Ship 100 impacted many girls and is part of the legacy of the longest-running troop in our council. As an adult volunteer, she supports her daughter's troop, her service unit, and, as a Board Member, the council as a whole. As Philanthropy Committee Chair, she is diligent and passionate about supporting and encouraging GSNI's fundraising goals and engaging Committee and Board Members in seeking sponsors, grantors, and donors. Her positive working relationship with GSNI's Philanthropy staff has provided a revenue source accounting for about 15% of the council's total revenue stream.

### Hillary Blevins

*Nominated by Stephanie Olivas*

As Service Unit Manager, Hillary played an intricate role in facilitating a seamless merger of Whiteside and Carroll Service Units. She worked closely with GSNI's Appreciative Inquiry process and continues as a member of the Older Girl Scout Action Team and West Side Task Force. As a member of the West Side Task Force, she advocates for rural troops and advised on the celebration and sale of Camp Far Horizons and the Welcome to Camp McCormick event. On the Older Girl Scout Action Team, she is working to build a group of Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors to advise GSNI on marketing, social media, and media appearances.

### Michael Campbell

*Nominated by Fiona Cummings*

Michael joined the Board in 2019 and has given hours and hours of his time in committee and leadership positions. He is a natural leader, networker, and highly respected member of the Board. Michael steps up to everything, often without being asked, and opens his vast business network to support GSNI by recommending people to help as advisors and Board Members. After two years, his election to First Vice President is a testament to his leadership qualities. In everything he does, he particularly values diversity and supports our Board in become more diverse.

## **Stephanie Olivas**

*Nominated by Hillary Blevins*

Stephanie successfully faced the challenges brought on by COVID at the troop and service unit level. While following all safety requirements, she offered weekly in-person troop meetings and weekly Zoom meetings for Girl Scouts in quarantine. Her troop participated in multiple service projects, parades, and celebrations. 99% of bridging Girl Scouts have earned the Summit Award!

She goes above and beyond during the cookie program, hosting 18 booths and taking Girl Scouts door-to-door when parents could not. Her troop is an Honor Troop and has 99% retention. She takes on an active role in her service unit, attending all service unit meetings and organizing the only two service unit events held during pandemic restrictions—a virtual World Thinking Day program and an in-person cookie rally.

She also takes an active role at the council level by attending Town Hall and Meet the CEO events. She participated in GSNI's Appreciative Inquiry process and is a member of the Recruitment Processes Action Team. She initiated the tiered system for profits from product program, enabling service units to receive financial support from the council based on their progress to goals—this will fund more local Girl Scout events and volunteer appreciation efforts!

## **Donnann Tritten**

*Nominated by Louise Glon*

Donnann has worn just about every hat available in the service unit numerous times. She is a longtime troop leader. First, leading her daughter's troop through graduation and currently leading two troops focused on providing Girl Scouts for underserved communities. She has directed day camp for many years, bringing it back after a five-year lapse. As Service Unit Manager, she ensures a yearly recruitment booth at Roscoe's Fall Festival and has brought STEM activities to the Girl Scouts. She has partnered with Home Depot to provide wooden craft projects at numerous events. She also continually takes up-to-date training and participates in STEW—sharing what she has learned with leaders and Girl Scouts alike. Donnann opens many activities to other service units and started the Better Together Journey weekend, which serves members throughout the council and supports Girl Scouts' highest awards.

## **Emily Varsho**

*Nominated by Jane Keene*

Emily is a superwoman! She holds many volunteer positions and still managed to have a baby in 2021 to add to her family of two school-age daughters. As Service Unit Manager, she has increased attendance at meetings and is very thorough, covering recruitment, events for the Girl Scouts, and training for leaders. As Day Camp Director, she changed the reservation platform to an electronic form which had an amazing impact. She is making connections and building relationships that will be fruitful for years to come. Service unit volunteers and parents are happy to have her expertise benefiting our troops and service unit!



## 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.

## June Kubasiak

*Nominated by Fiona Cummings*

June is a lifelong Girl Scout and has a long history with the legacy council of Sybaquay, as well as with GSNI. After being a leader for some time, she served on the Campership Committee for Sybaquay, helping to determine camping scholarship distributions. She was also a Troop Trek staff member, helping troops acclimate to their first camping experiences.

In addition to serving on both Sybaquay's and GSNI's Board of Directors, June has represented both councils at National Conventions. Along with her Board responsibilities as a Member-at-Large and member of the Property Committee, she is also very engaged with her local service unit, attending many of their events, mentoring and supporting their leaders and Girl Scouts. June's desire to serve GSNI strategically by being on the Board but also staying connected to the youth members and local volunteers by attending and supporting numerous events helped her and GSNI bridge the gap that sometimes appears between volunteers/youth members and staff/board. She did this with a smile, a sense of history, and true Girl Scout green blood!

Many people tend to retire from volunteering when they retire. June has been a true Girl Scout through many life changes, because she believes in the program and spreads the word everywhere about the benefits of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. She was the first Board Member to raise her hand to be part of the CEO Search Committee. She noted how important it is that Girl Scouts continues to have a bright future as we move forward. The future of Girl Scouting is as important to her as the lifetime of service behind her!

When you show up  
for them, they shine!  
Keep building a better  
world with them.

**RENEW TODAY**





## 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.

## Mary Jo Hare

*Nominated by Fiona Cummings*

*Endorsed by Robin Henning and Kris Trusk*

Mary Jo Hare has been an adult member of Girl Scouts for 30 years and has a varied Girl Scout resume. Over the past 25 years, she has helped adults become better leaders across her legacy council and now GSNI. Her roles have included Service Unit Manager, Recognition Chair, Service Unit Program Chair, Council Leadership Trainer, and Outdoor Trainer—a role she practiced for 20 years. Additionally, Mary Jo has been on several committees and helped with ad hoc work over the past eight years. These included facilitating workshops for both the Long-Range Property Plan and the Appreciative Inquiry (strategy planning process) in 2021. Mary Jo is still engaged in bringing her wisdom and passion to several GSNI initiatives, including the Community Engagement Action Team, Native American Task Force, and Property Committee of the Board, which assesses and validates property strategies.

GSNI's Robin Henning shared, "It's not only Mary Jo's service that is exceptional, but Mary Jo is exceptional! As a young Membership Specialist back in the day, I remember attending monthly Service Unit Directors meetings and how impressed I was with Mary Jo. Travel across the last 30 years, and you can still find Mary Jo showing up at monthly Leader Meetings, working as the Product Coordinator for Southern Ogle, still being a teacher and a mentor to everyone! Mary Jo loved Girl Scouting so much she was willing to step into any role that needed her assistance. She was and is an advocate for Girl Scouts, not only in her small Southern Ogle Service Unit, but in greater Rockford."

GSNI's CEO Fiona Cumming has asked Mary Jo multiple times to be a Board Member, but Mary Jo always declines, indicating her heart is truly with providing direct support to the Girl Scouts and volunteers in her area and across the council!

## Lesley Tennessen

*Nominated by Brianna MacMullen*

*Endorsed by Erin Berry, Christina Kirsch, and Frances Mai-Ling Louie*

Lesley has been a key volunteer since before GSNI! Brianna shared her first experience with Lesley, which goes back to when Brianna was a girl at Troop Trek where Lesley shared her passion for the outdoors. She taught outdoor skills to both Program Aides assisting with Troop Trek and to Girl Scouts and



leaders in attendance. Lesley is passionate about outdoor cooking, especially Dutch oven cooking, and has taught a variety of outdoor cooking methods to over 300 adults at GSNI's STEW events and numerous girls and adults through service unit events. In her workshops, Lesley embraces the values of girl-led, learning by doing, and cooperative learning. No one enters her classes as an observer only. Instead, each person receives a full level holistic approach as participant, learner, and contributor.

Lesley is a First Class recipient, lifetime member, and, like so many volunteers, has served in a variety of volunteer roles. While Lesley has retired from facilitating outdoor training, she did help develop GSNI's current outdoor training curriculum and continues to mentor some of our newest outdoor trainers. She is active as a STEW Committee member and shares her outdoor cooking with Girl Scouts and adults throughout the council. Throughout her classes, Lesley sneaks tidbits of Girl Scout history and tales of adventures to encourage members to continue as Girl Scouts and celebrate the value of lifelong friendships.

## Membership Milestones

### **Five years**

Kelly Furr  
Rebecca Koehler  
Kristin Maksymiw

### **Ten Years**

Addison Hackbarth  
Jessica Hodge  
Stephanie Kuhn-Donald  
Shanta Reddy  
Grace Trumbull  
Danette Whyte

### **Fifteen Years**

Mary L. Hill  
Emily Lenore  
Kathleen Reifsteck

### **Twenty Years**

Kara McCleary  
Cathy Shipp

### **Twenty-Five Years**

Teresa Hayes  
Catherine Johnston  
Angela Musial

### **Thirty Years**

Peggy Bartelt  
Jennifer Camplain  
Jill Wesolowicz

### **Thirty-Five Years**

Christina Kirsch  
Kris Trusk

### **Fifty Years**

Robin Shaff  
Lesley Tennessen

### **Fifty-Five Years**

June Stott Kubasiak



## 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.

### Award Recipients, ages 5–10

#### ***Bronze, 26–49 hours***

Isaac Blevins, *Whiteside-Carroll Service Unit*

Ava Castro, *Whiteside-Carroll Service Unit*

Sadie Castro, *Whiteside-Carroll Service Unit*

Liliana Cech, *Whiteside-Carroll Service Unit*

Sophia Gallegos, *Whiteside-Carroll Service Unit*

Madelyn Harper, *Arapaho Service Unit*

Ava Hollowell, *Whiteside-Carroll Service Unit*

Jordyn Olalde, *Whiteside-Carroll Service Unit*

Emelia Willis, *Whiteside-Carroll Service Unit*

#### ***Gold, 75+ hours***

Isabelle Olivas, *Whiteside-Carroll Service Unit*

### Award Recipients, ages 11–15

#### ***Bronze, 50–74 hours***

Julia Baird, *Geneva Service Unit*

#### ***Gold, 100+ hours***

Annabelle Blevins, *Whiteside-Carroll Service Unit*

Frances McGroarty, *Geneva Service Unit*

Rhiannon Reynolds, *Genesis Service Unit*

### Award Recipients, ages 26+

#### ***Bronze, 100–249 hours***

Erin Berry, *Park North Service Unit*

Mary Rose Phillip, *Spring River Service Unit*

Marilyn Jean Hartzog, *Spring River Service Unit*

Barbara Lutz, *Stephenson Service Unit*

Terry Moore, *Spring River Service Unit*  
Jody Niles, *Chippewa Service Unit*  
Hugo Olivas, *Whiteside-Carroll Service Unit*  
Patty Potempa, *Boone Service Unit*  
Michele Prather, *Chippewa Service Unit*  
Kim Shrader, *WinDuPec Service Unit*

***Silver, 250—499 hours***

Marshall Blevins, *Whiteside-Carroll Service Unit*  
Staci Bumgarner, *Kaskaskia Service Unit*  
Tracy Hooper, *Double Tree Service Unit*  
Betty Moore, *Spring River Service Unit*  
Marilyn Nelson, *Whiteside-Carroll Service Unit*  
Melanie Olson, *Lee Service Unit*  
Cheri Wickert, *Lee Service Unit*

***Gold, 500+ hours***

Chris Alsip-Kostelc, *Gemini Service Unit*  
Peggy Bartelt, *Geneva Service Unit*  
Marge Blake, *Spring River Service Unit*  
Hillary Blevins, *Whiteside-Carroll Service Unit*  
Louise Glon, *Park North Stateline Service Unit*  
Trisha Goodnough, *Genesis Service Unit*  
Stephanie Olivas, *Whiteside-Carroll Service Unit*  
Sue Reimer, *Circle of Friends Service Unit*  
Karen Tatlock, *Double Tree Service Unit*

**Group & Family Award Recipients**

***Bronze, 200–499 hours***

Denise and Larry Ethun, *Spring River Service Unit*  
Harper Family, *Arapaho Service Unit*

***Gold 1,000+ hours***

Blevins Family, *Whiteside-Carroll Service Unit*  
Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois Historian Committee  
Genesis Service Unit  
Olivas Family, *Whiteside-Carroll Service Unit*

# 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 Girl Scouts 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 2022 Scholarships.

## Elizanne Lewis Gold Award Scholarship

Maggie Bell, *St. Charles*

## GSNI Gold Award Scholarship

Paige Bowman, *Barrington*

## GSNI Ambassador Scholarships

Teagan Blake, *Loves Park*

Alaina Boggetti, *Elgin*

Natasha Keisler, *St. Charles*

Aisling McGrath, *Batavia*

Abby Porter, *Lake in the Hills*

Shanta Reddy, *Loves Park*

Maddison Shepard, *Crystal Lake*

Shannon Shrader, *Pecatonica*



## 2021 GSNI Scholarship Recipients

# Girl Scout Gold Awards - 2022

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the mark of the truly remarkable! It recognizes Girl Scouts 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. Gold Award Girl Scouts are driven, passionate, and optimistic. They are the leaders of tomorrow today.

We are proud to present the 2022 Gold Award Girl Scouts!



**Maggie Bell**  
St. Charles  
Fox Valley Service Unit  
Save the Canines

Maggie's project grew from a personal experience and determination to educate pet owners and humane societies about animal first aid. After completing animal first aid training, Maggie created an educational flier about animal first aid and how pet owners could make and use their own first aid kit. With flyers in hand, Maggie and her team attended a pet expo to share this information with event attendees. Knowing how important pets are to youth, Maggie also spoke at local day camp about this topic. The team continued their work by assembling 250 first aid kits that were then delivered to five humane societies and given to pet owners who had newly adopted a pet. These kits were complete with first aid supplies and an English/Spanish informational bookmark. Maggie also wrote an article for the humane societies to share on their webpages. Anderson Animal Shelter will continue to spread awareness and knowledge about animal first aid and share the resources on their website.



**Kyla Butler**  
St. Charles  
North Star Service Unit  
Self Defense Workshop for  
Teen Girls

Kyla wanted to address the issue of violence against women as statistics show one in three women will be a victim of assault in their lifetime. She hosted a two-hour workshop for teen girls to gain basic self-defense skills and learn to protect themselves when in a dangerous situation. Kyla's team of experts and instructors educated the target audience about the alarming statistics regarding assaults against teens and women in the United States and the world. They discussed how to make safe choices with people they may interact with in their environment. Attendees were taught proper punches, kicks, strikes, and blocks and confidently demonstrated they could properly defend themselves if ever put in harm's way. The audience left with a more positive attitude about self-defense. This workshop will be continued by the LaFox Martial Arts Center.





**Joy Grady**  
Lake Zurich  
Lake Zurich Service Unit  
**Get Moving Camp**  
**Initiative for Kids**

Joy's project made a difference in her community as she led an outdoor physical fitness camp for elementary school-aged kids. Her goals were to keep kids active and having fun during the pandemic while supporting campers' physical and mental health. Joy's team produced and staffed two different-aged camps, kindergarten through second grade and third through fifth grade. Each camp met once a week for four weeks and offered a variety of activities and exercises. Throughout camp, the camp counselors talked about the importance of exercise in everyday life. Parents were given resources to help encourage each camper's physical activity at home and designed to be shared with friends. Camper parents commented on how thankful they were for their child's opportunity to participate in this free camp! Get Moving Camps will be sustained with help from the Lake Zurich National Honor Society.



**Ella Holtermann**  
Barrington  
Barrington Service Unit  
**Vote Barrington: Local**  
**Election Voter Engagement**

Ella's Gold Award project addressed the issue of voter apathy among young adults, ages 18–29, and high school students soon to be of voting age. Local governments often impact daily life more than the federal government, but voter turnout for municipal and local elections is significantly lower, largely due to a lack of education about these elections. Ella's team used a variety of mediums to provide information in a straightforward, easily understandable way. Readers could learn about the role of local government positions, their significance, and options for registering to vote via a website and Instagram page (Vote Barrington), videos, posters, flyers, and email. Ahead of the April 6, 2021, local election in Barrington, Ella had 743 visitors to her website and 86 followers on Instagram—making it more likely for her target audience to have voted then and in the future. The League of Women Voters has agreed to maintain the website and Instagram page.

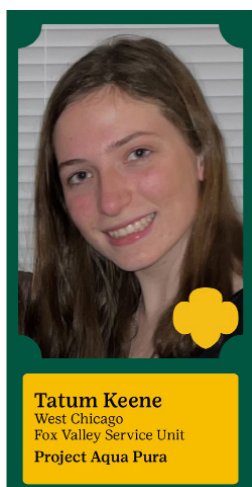


## 2021 Girl Scout Gold Award Recipients

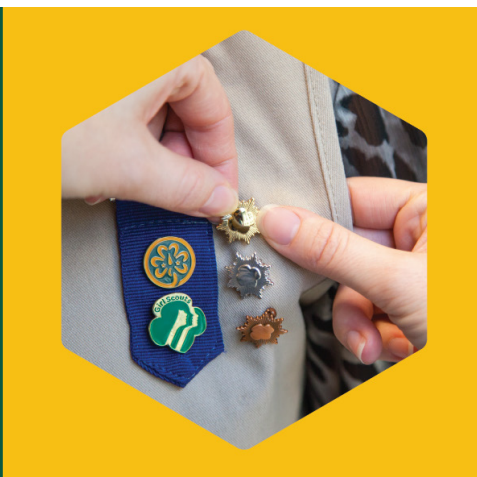




Amelia's project brought awareness to her community about the environmental impact of disposing of non-biodegradable school supplies in the trash. Her team got to work recycling, reusing, and repurposing school supplies as a tangible way to start the next generation thinking about leaving a smaller eco-footprint. While hosting a booth at a community event for kids and their parents, Amelia's team distributed over 100 samples of recycled crayons—each with a QR code linking to her Instagram page offering educational information and creative crafts for upcycling school supplies. There were over 200 sample projects made by kids attending the event. The Environmental Club at Geneva High School has agreed to continue Amelia's efforts by adding used school supplies to their annual recycling drive. Two elementary schools in the Geneva School District have agreed to share her crafts and Instagram page (@easyupcycledcrafts) adding to even more community awareness and a call to action.



Tatum has a passion for helping marine life and earned her scuba certification to deepen her understanding and skill to speak about her subject. Her project aimed to educate her community on the environmental crisis of ocean pollution and how people in the Midwest can help. Speaking at multiple events and offering hands-on experiences, Tatum and her team educated attendees about the importance of water, the effect pollution has on our earth, the dangers of trash getting in our oceans, and a new mindset about how they look at littering. To establish a call to action, Tatum created and handed out bookmarks with simple action steps people can take to address the cause. Working with Red Oak Nature Center, Tatum created an interactive backpack for visitors to check out and learn more about water pollution. It is loaded with activities, games, and her bookmark. Younger environmentalist will enjoy the story book and learn how garbage affects the environment.





**Lauren Kohl**  
Bartlett  
Cheyenne Service Unit  
Disability Awareness

Lauren's project worked to recognize the growing need for inclusivity of students with disabilities in general education classrooms. Strategies for teaching inclusivity to primary-aged school students involve making things personal and sharing perspectives. The more children can learn about their peers, the more understanding and accepting they will be when growing up. Lauren's team worked to design and implement social story books, games, activities, and hallway sensory stops for kindergarten through sixth grade students. This gave students hands-on opportunities to understand what it is like to live with five different major disabilities and what is special about each of them. Students also learned how to be empathetic and understanding towards people who have disabilities and how to work with people with disabilities. This project will be sustained by the Student Council and a parent-teacher group at Centennial Elementary School.



**Jenna Strohschein**  
South Elgin  
Fox Valley Service Unit  
Equine First Aid & Rider  
Safety

Jenna is an avid equestrian. The equine industry is both national and international in nature and involves roughly 7.1 million people around the world. Jenna wanted to empower other riders to learn about the importance of knowing equine first aid. This knowledge will lead to a safer experience for both the rider and the horse, as well as strengthen the relationship between the two. If riders are not educated about horse care, it can lead to a chaotic riding program. Jenna and her team created a PowerPoint presentation to educate their target audience about rider safety, protocols of horse safety, jump safety, basic first aid, and the role different types of tack can play. After her first presentation, 95% of the participants identified something specific that they learned. Domesticated horses cannot protect themselves, but Jenna is doing her part to see that humans take good care of them.

You  
changed  
the world.



**Hallie Thomas**  
Elgin  
North Star Service Unit  
Educating Teens About  
Mental Health

As a high school student, Hallie could see firsthand how some of her peers were struggling with mental health issues and stress from COVID-19. She was determined to raise awareness about mental health issues, emotional health, and suicide prevention. Hallie recognized some of the stigmas preventing students from getting help, so her approach was to increase the motivation to seek and continue treatment. Hallie teamed up with her school's Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) club, and together they dedicated one week to emotional health awareness and another to suicide prevention awareness. Videos, flyers, and easy access to SADD's website—where students could find statics and helpful resources—were also shared. Hallie's team took their message to the community by creating and donating paintings to a local counseling center. Their hope is that the paintings brighten up the waiting room and encourage clients!



**Grace Trumbull**  
Lake Zurich  
Lake Zurich Service Unit  
Grace's Giving Garden and  
Food Pantry Support

Grace made an impact in her community by establishing a reliable source of fresh vegetables for the local food pantry. Her team built six raised garden beds at a local church and grew a large variety of vegetables. Team members maintained the garden and made a weekly harvest delivery to the pantry. In just one season, Grace's team donated over 250 pounds of produce! Outreach has been done to encourage other churches to support their communities in a similar way. The food panty was also lacking in baby supplies, toiletries, and food. Partnering with her local Jewel, Grace communicated the pantry's needs with shoppers and offered them the option to buy a prepackaged bag of needed supplies. In total, Grace sold 30 bags in three days and received additional donations enabling her to purchase other pantry items for donation. The Lake Zurich National Honor Society will continue the prepackaged bags on a consistent basis.

girlscouts  
of northern illinois

# Summer Camp Registration is OPEN!



[girlscoutsnri.org/summercamp](https://girlscoutsnri.org/summercamp)

# Graduating Girl Scouts

GSNI is happy to present our graduating Girl Scout Ambassadors for 2022.

Congratulations! May you take your Girl Scout experience with you wherever you go!

Sammi Ackerman, *Richmond*

Madissen Allen, *Polo*

Catherine Anderson, *McHenry*

Madison Anderson, *Spring Grove*

Baylee-Kay Anderson, *DeKalb*

Taylor Armstrong, *Rockford*

Kelly Belcastro, *Woodstock*

Maggie Bell, *St. Charles*

Amber Bement, *Belvidere*

Alexandretta Bishop, *Woodstock*

Teagan Blake, *Loves Park*

Alexandra Blondin, *Bartlett*

Alaina Boggetti, *Elgin*

Emma Boop, *Elizabeth*

Julia Borek, *Lake Zurich*

Paige Bowman, *Barrington*

Alissa Browning, *Machesney Park*

Andrea Bullman, *Batavia*

Natalie Buratzuk, *St. Charles*

Hannah Chapa, *Volo*

Isabella Chau, *Barrington*

Samantha Cheeseman, *Barrington*

Josie Chipp, *St. Charles*

Faith Cullen, *South Elgin*

Clara Davenport, *Deer Park*

Abby Depaul, *Oswego*

Lianna Doran, *South Elgin*

Paige Downey, *Volo*

Stephanie Eiklor, *Elgin*

Hannah Etienne, *Lake Zurich*

Emily Fairgrieve, *St. Charles*

Sarah Finley, *Batavia*

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, *Barrington*

Ella Follman, *Sycamore*

Renee Forsyth, *Batavia*

Josephine Fox, *Sugar Grove*

Caroline Fuller, *Woodstock*

Allison Funk, *Tower Lakes*

Madeline Gaber, *St. Charles*

Jessica Gathman, *Richmond*

Abigail Getty, *Crystal Lake*

Sarahi Gomora, *Aurora*

Joy Grady, *Lake Zurich*

Kendel Graham, *Somonauk*

Ella Greenfield, *Rockton*

Paige Grossenbacher, *Lake Zurich*

Marissa Guajardo, *South Elgin*

Addison Hackbarth, *Rockford*

Kaitlyn Hall, *Crystal Lake*

Jenna Hart, *Sycamore*

Gabrielle Hayes, *Hampshire*

Charlotte Hethcoat, *Streamwood*

Margaret Higgins, *Barrington*

Sarah Hill, *Hampshire*

Kourtney Holcomb, *St. Charles*

Ella Holtermann, *Barrington*

Bridget Hughes, *Kingston*

Abby Johns, *Sycamore*

Brianna Johnson, *Crystal Lake*

Natasha Keisler, *St. Charles*

Katie Kelly, *South Elgin*

Erinn Kelly, *Streamwood*

Julia Kenyon, *South Elgin*

Allison Kessel, *Richmond*



Jasmine Khaytin, *Port Barrington*  
Molly Knecht, *Barrington*  
Emma Koehnke, *Genoa*  
Natalia Kralicek, *Plano*  
Allysa Lawrence, *Crystal Lake*  
Ariana LeVoy, *Loves Park*  
Isabella Lewis, *West Chicago*  
Emma Lippold, *Genoa*  
Sarah Lochen, *Island Lake*  
Julianna Longo, *Aurora*  
Molly Marin, *Cary*  
Megan Mauger, *Cary*  
Camara Maurer, *Hampshire*  
Sarah McClellan, *Spring Grove*  
Aisling McGrath, *Batavia*  
Anna McLaughlin, *Wonder Lake*  
Lindsey Melancon, *Freeport*  
Julia Menig, *Geneva*  
Sydney Meyer, *Spring Grove*  
Sarah Michalak, *Cary*  
Avri Miller, *Stockton*  
Katelyn Mobley, *Algonquin*  
Faith Mudra, *Algonquin*  
Matilyn Mumm, *Sugar Grove*  
Elizabeth Nelson, *Machesney Park*  
Sarah Nolley, *Machesney Park*  
Meghan O'Donoghue, *Barrington*  
Anna Olp, *Elburn*  
Sophie Opp, *Sugar Grove*  
Olivia Pagnotta, *Woodstock*  
Rachael Peters, *Sugar Grove*  
Mia Petronella, *Algonquin*  
Abby Porter, *Lake in the Hills*  
Kiana Pouyat, *North Barrington*  
Sierra Ramos, *Rochelle*  
Melly Rasmussen, *Algonquin*

Shanta Reddy, *Loves Park*  
Natalie Reifsteck, *Lanark*  
Joleigh Reiss, *Genoa*  
Emma Robison, *Island Lake*  
Sara Rothenbaum, *St. Charles*  
Erin Rothenbaum, *St. Charles*  
Leiana Santoro, *Carol Stream*  
Ailish Seibert, *Elgin*  
Maddison Shepard, *Crystal Lake*  
Maya Sherman, *Bartlett*  
Shannon Shrader, *Pecatonica*  
Megan Sondergaard, *Elgin*  
Natalie Sorensen, *McHenry*  
Megan Sporny, *North Aurora*  
Shannon Stanley, *Elgin*  
Elizabeth Stickley, *Loves Park*  
Erin Strombeck, *Rockford*  
Jenna Stuck, *North Aurora*  
Rachel Sturtevant, *North Aurora*  
Arianna Surratt, *Rockford*  
Rebecca Tartol, *Oswego*  
Elisabeth Taylor, *Crystal Lake*  
Hallie Thomas, *Elgin*  
Riley Tobin, *McHenry*  
Grace Trumbull, *Lake Zurich*  
Carol Turner, *Machesney Park*  
Katelyn Turskey, *Woodstock*  
Faith Ukena, *Polo*  
Alana Vodicka, *Wauconda*  
Bella Wandtke, *Belvidere*  
Lindsay Warfel, *South Elgin*  
Lilly Weisner, *South Elgin*  
Rowynn Whyte, *Streamwood*  
Sarah Wiseman, *Hawthorn Woods*  
Annabelle Zakosek, *Pingree Grove*



## Honor Troop

The Honor Troop guidelines provide troops—Girl Scouts 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 26** *McHenry*  
**Troop 33** *Sycamore*  
**Troop 96** *Holiday Hills*  
**Troop 143** *Cary*  
**Troop 144** *Geneva*  
**Troop 150** *Rock Falls*  
**Troop 166** *Lake Zurich*  
**Troop 257** *Mount Morris*  
**Troop 275** *Elgin*  
**Troop 334** *Elgin*  
**Troop 337** *Hampshire*  
**Troop 387** *Crystal Lake*  
**Troop 415** *Oswego*  
**Troop 445** *Lake Zurich*  
**Troop 447** *Crystal Lake*  
**Troop 519** *Crystal Lake*  
**Troop 915** *Cary*  
**Troop 934** *Algonquin*  
**Troop 938** *Crystal Lake*  
**Troop 968** *Fox River Grove*  
**Troop 1063** *Island Lake*  
**Troop 1095** *Loves Park*  
**Troop 1137** *Oregon*

**Troop 1235** *Oregon*  
**Troop 1384** *Geneva*  
**Troop 1409** *Lake Zurich*  
**Troop 1504** *Morrison*  
**Troop 1714** *McHenry*  
**Troop 1728** *Lake Zurich*  
**Troop 1743** *St. Charles*  
**Troop 1893** *Lake Zurich*  
**Troop 1897** *Lake Zurich*  
**Troop 1907** *Cary*  
**Troop 1923** *Crystal Lake*  
**Troop 1930** *Lake Zurich*  
**Troop 2189** *Dixon*  
**Troop 2219** *Roscoe*  
**Troop 2244** *Marengo*  
**Troop 2340** *Lake in the Hills*  
**Troop 2348** *Cary*  
**Troop 2374** *Wauconda*  
**Troop 2386** *East Dundee*  
**Troop 3127** *Loves Park*  
**Troop 3172** *Loves Park*  
**Troop 4785** *Aurora*



# Save the Date

## August 13, 2022



### A Community Celebration!

Families Welcome • Outdoor Fun • Hiking • Tours • Food  
Plan to Celebrate 75 years of Camp Dean With Girl Scouts!



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## Counselor In Training I (CIT I)

Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors earn this award by completing a leadership course on outdoor experiences and work with younger members over the course of a camp session.

Julia Baird, *Geneva*

Alyssa Bognetti, *Elgin*

Ashleigh Burger, *East Dundee*

Abigail Carpenter, *Elgin*

Kymerly Lipps, *DeKalb*

Natalie Lyman, *South Beloit*

Frances McGroarty, *Geneva*

Rhiannon Reynolds, *Oswego*

Samantha Tallman, *Oswego*

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## Counselor In Training II (CIT II)

Girl Scout Ambassadors earn this award by working with younger members over the course of at least one camp session while focused on increasing their skills in specific areas, such as the arts or outdoor skills.

Alaina Bognetti, *Elgin*

Journey Broadbent, *Montgomery*

Kymerly Lipps, *DeKalb*

Natalie Lyman, *South Beloit*



# Thank You!

Congratulations to all 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.

We'd like to say a special thank you to the following volunteers who give of their valuable time to ensure the triumphs and successes of both GSNI Girl Scouts and GSNI adults are continually recognized!

## Recognition Committee

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

## Gold Award Committee

Linda Christianson, Committee Chair  
Kelly McCleary  
Doris Mangano

## Scholarship Committee

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| Miriam Fleig | Lisa Normoyle |
| Louise Glon  | Linda Oshita  |
| Louise Krist |               |

*Thank you to GSNI AmeriCorps Troop 40619 for performing our flag ceremony today!*

We have done our best to spell all names correctly and recognize each recipient under the appropriate category. We apologize for any errors. Please let us know of any corrections at [customercare@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsni.org). Thank you!

### 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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