



Highest Awards Service Unit Ceremonies

Tips and Tricks for hosting your event.

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Electronic versions of the forms and script that you can edit are available. Please Contact Customer Care at customercare@girlscoutsni.org if you would like a copy.

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois encourages service units to plan bridging events along with Highest Awards Ceremonies during National Bridging Week. Service Units can submit a small story to customercare@girlscoutsni.org after their ceremony for a highlight on GSNI's Facebook page as a National Bridging Week Highlight. Service Units will be able to continue submitting stories about their Bridging and Highest Awards Ceremonies any time during the year.

Guidelines for Service Unit Highest Awards Ceremony

An event to recognize your Service Unit's Highest Award recipients: the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. We also want to honor these Mentoring Awards: Cadette Program Aide (PA), Counselor-in-Training (CIT-I), Counselor-in-Training II (CIT-II), and Volunteer-in-Training (VIT).

The event includes Girl Scouts of all ages as well as their parents and special guests.

What It's All About & How It Works

The event can be a stand-alone Highest Awards event or combined with another event such as Bridging. The intent is to have as many younger girls present as possible so they can learn about the awards they can earn as they get older. Additionally, these events are a great opportunity to showcase the success of the girls in your local community, by inviting key community leaders, alumnae, school officials and the media. Because these events are empowering experiences for girls, important membership retention opportunities and community engagement opportunities, Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois provides guidelines and resources, support from volunteer committee members, as well as funding allocations to support plans at the service unit level.

The service unit support funds are only for the costs of the event. Your Service Unit will be reimbursed for funds spent on the event up to the allotted amount. Funds will only be reimbursed for the Highest Award recipients in attendance at your event, and no funds are awarded for recipients that do not attend the event.

All events must submit pre-event paperwork at least 30 days before the event, but please let us know the date as soon as you know it. Your post-event paperwork must be submitted to receive reimbursement. If you are planning a Highest Awards event for July-September, you must submit the pre-paperwork before June 28, to help the council with budget planning. Final paperwork must be submitted for all events by September 15.

Special Guests

Staff and Board Members would like to attend your event to honor the awardees. Please let us know if there are roles you would like for them to fulfill at the event. Priority of attendance will be given to events with Gold Award Girl Scouts. Be aware attendance is based on individual availability. Don't forget to invite community members such as mayors and principals!

Funding

Funding allocations are for the support of the Service Unit Highest Awards event.

- Funding for Highest Awards Events are not considered an 'award' for the Service Unit or an individual.
- It is not meant to be given to an individual or to a troop.
- The money can be used for food, supplies for the event, and space rental.
- The money is not intended to buy the award pins. Troops commonly buy Bronze and Silver Award pins as well as Cadette PA, CIT, and VIT. The council provides the Gold Award pin to the Gold Award Girl Scout.

For the 2024 award season, Service Unit Highest Award Support is as follows:

- \$50 per Gold Award Girl Scout
- \$20 per Silver Award Girl Scout
- \$10 per Bronze Award Girl Scout
- \$20 per CIT II or VIT
- \$10 per CIT I
- \$5 per Cadette Program Aide Award
- \$50 per Medal of Honor or Bronze Cross Awardee (approved by GSUSA)

Awardees

Gold Award Girl Scouts who earned their award from March 16, 2023-March 15, 2024 should be honored in spring/summer 2024.

Silver and Bronze Girl Scouts must have submitted their Final Report paperwork to the council prior to your event. Girls who are receiving Mentoring Awards must have completed the appropriate council training and requirements to earn the award. For inclusion in the ceremony, awards should have been completed in the year between the previous years' service unit award ceremony and the current year's ceremony. In cases where this is the first service unit ceremony, simply recognize those completing the award during the current membership year. In all cases, Girl Scouts must not have already been recognized at an event the previous year.

Check list for planning a Service Unit Highest Awards Celebration

- Form a Service Unit Highest Award Celebration Committee
- **Include girls in planning and decisions, especially Girl Scout Gold Award recipients**
- Pick a date.
- Pick a location.
- Have your budget and plans approved by your Service Unit Manager
- Submit your "Before the Highest Awards Ceremony" form one month in advance.
- Advertise to your Service Unit.
- Special Guests-Consider who you might invite (local dignitaries, GSNI staff and board members, Girl Scout alumnae, if you have a Gold Award Girl Scouts ask if they have anyone special that they would like to invite)
- Do you need to checkout any equipment from a Resource Center? (Such as flags, flag stands, ceremony supplies)
- Do you need decorations?
- Do you need food?
- Honoring a Gold Award Girl Scout? Do you have a charge reader? (See page 5-Suggested Roles)
- Keep track of who attends your event.
- Turn in your "SU Highest Award Celebration Event Summary" form two weeks after your event along with receipts.
- Service unit receives reimbursement funds to support the event.

Girl Scout Recognition Event Planning

Who are you recognizing? Gold Silver Bronze Mentoring Bridging

Other _____

Where:.....

When:.....

Who to invite?

Consider community members, those who the Girl Scouts have given service to, facilities who provide meeting space to the troops, local dignitaries, religious leaders, school representatives, previous Gold Award Girl Scouts, GSNI staff and volunteer members of Gold Award Committee.

What do you need?

Program to inspire Girl Scouts to continue to be Girl Scouts, to motivate community to support Girl Scouting and its goals, to appropriately recognize Girl Scouts who have earned significant awards including the Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador can earn in Girl Scouts.

What to include?

Your event may be a brief 15 minute ceremony for one Girl Scout or an hour long program highlighting multiple Girl Scouts. The event should be specific for the Girl Scout(s) and tell their story. If you are doing several different types of recognitions (years of service, Bronze, Gold), the Gold Award should ALWAYS be the culminating presentation.

Note: If honoring a Gold Award Girl Scout, this part should be the very last presentation (right before the flags are retired) in the Service Unit Celebration. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the pinnacle of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and should also be in your event.

You event may include:

- Songs
- Skits
- Poems
- Printed invitation to event
- Speaker
- Flag ceremony
- Candle/flower ceremony
- Printed programs
- Girl Scouts sharing
- Refreshments
- Photo opportunities
- their own stories.
- Other customized fun!

Suggested Roles

1. Event Coordinator: the individual who puts the program together, the go-to person.
2. Master of Ceremonies: the person who will manage the presentation part of the event, read the script and keep the flow of the event going
3. People Mover: someone who will be sure participants are in the right places at the right times
4. Technician: someone who has knowledge and is comfortable with facility audio equipment and can monitor sound system (if it is being used and the facility does not provide one)
5. Reader: Speaks about the Girl Scout Gold Award (See pages 9-10 of the Event Script.) This might be a previous Gold Award Girl Scout, a member of the GSNI Board of Directors, Gold Award Committee, staff, or other speaker.
6. Charge Reader: If you are honoring a Gold Award Girl Scout, you will need a charge reader. This is the next to the last part of the ceremony where the Gold Award Girl Scout is read the Gold Award Charge or Challenge and MUST be read by a previous Gold Award Girl Scout. (See pages 11-12 of the Event Script.) If you need assistance in locating someone, please contact GSNI.
7. Facility Crew: set up, decorate, clean up spills, take down, know where to get broom, mop, garbage bags, etc.
8. Greeters: welcome/seat guests, hand out programs if being used
9. Refreshment Crew: set up food tables, prep and refill as needed if food is being served
10. Photographer: someone who can move around the room, who knows what pictures to take and of whom before, during, and after the ceremony

In following the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, it is appropriate for Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts to have roles in the Recognition Event such as Master of Ceremony. Younger Girl Scouts can be greeters or have other designated jobs. All aged Girl Scouts may help with songs, skits, and flag ceremony.

+ It is recommended that youth who are representing Girl Scouts in public dress in uniform.

Sample Event Script

(Please put the script in a binder at the podium)

Master of Ceremonies:

Good afternoon. I am _____. Thank you for coming to _____ Service Unit's Highest Awards Event. This is going to be a special time as we gather here to celebrate these accomplished young women.

I would ask, if you have not already done so, to please silence your cell phones. Should they be needed, restrooms are located _____

Today we honor (number) Bronze Award Girl Scouts, (number) Silver Award Girl Scouts, and (number) who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award. Girl Scouting provides them with the opportunities to discover fun, friendship, and the power of Girl Scouts together. Through Girl Scouting they developed leadership skills and values that helped to guide their actions to make the world a better place, not just through Girl Scouting but in school, church, work, and beyond. They have truly earned this afternoon in the spotlight.

[If no Mentoring Awardees, remove this paragraph] Today we also honor (number) Cadette Program Aide(s), (number) Counselor(s)-in-Training, (number) Counselor(s)-in-Training II, and (number) Volunteer(s)-in-Training. These awards focus on mentorship of younger Girl Scouts in the troop or outdoor setting.

The highest award in Girl Scouting for Girl Scout Juniors is the Bronze Award, for Girl Scout Cadettes it is the Silver Award, and for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors the Girl Scout Gold Award. These awards recognize Girl Scouts who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through sustainable and measurable projects. Girls answering the call to earn these highest awards mark them as accomplished members of their community and the world.

Again, thank you all for joining us this afternoon as we celebrate the success of these outstanding young ladies.

(Troop Number/ or Other Group) will now present the colors.

Caller:

Girl Scouts and Guest attention. Please stand and remove all non-religious headgear.

Color Guard attention.

Color Guard advance.

Color Guard, post the colors.

Color Guard, honor the colors.

Please join me in saying the 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 Scouts, join me in reciting the Girl Scout Promise:

On my honor, I will try:

To serve God and my country, To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Color Guard dismissed.

Girl Scouts and guests may be seated.

Master of Ceremonies:

Thank you (Troop Number / Other Group)

(This would be an appropriate time for an invocation, or a poem, song, or skit.)

Master of Ceremonies:

I would like to invite (name of individual or group) to the podium to offer (the invocation, a poem, a song, a skit)

{After the invocation, poem, song, or skit}

Master of Ceremonies:

Thank you (name of individual or group).

(If you are going to do bridging, it should happen now)

Master of Ceremonies:

Girl Scouting is a program of progression. Each level, from Daisy to Ambassador offers youth many opportunities to explore, learn, lead, and grow at their own level. As Girl Scouts bridge from one program level to the next it shows Girl Scouts has continuity. Bridging supports Girls Scouts in recognizing the value of older Girl Scouts taking personal responsibility for the younger girls as well as having all girls reflect on their own individual growth and accomplishments from the year. Bridging welcomes girls into the next program level of Girl Scouting and gives them confidence to pursue their goals.

Daisy to Brownie Bridging Brownie to Junior Bridging Junior to Cadette Bridging Cadette to Senior Bridging Senior to Ambassador Bridging Ambassador to Girl Scout Adult

(Resources for Bridging Ceremonies can be found in the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK). For younger troops see the Closing Celebration section. For older Girl Scouts and multi-level troops, you'll find it in the Resources tab under Girl Scout Traditions and Awards. You can also find details in [GSUSA's Girl Scout Bridging Guide](#). Remember to involve and include the Girl Scouts in the planning of their bridging, not just the participation at the event.)

Master of Ceremonies:

Congratulations to all the Girl Scouts who have bridged to the next level of Girl Scouting. We know you have many exciting adventures ahead. May we have a round of applause for all of their efforts? Thank you.

(This would be an appropriate time for a song, skit, or poem.)

Master of Ceremonies:

I now invite (name of individual or group) to the front to (sing, act, read).

{After the song, skit, or poem}

Master of Ceremonies:

Thank you (name of individual or group)

We will now recognize our Cadette Program Aide awardees. There are 3 steps Girl Scouts must complete to earn this award. They must earn one LIA Award, complete council level training, and work directly with younger Girl Scouts for a minimum of 25 hours or a minimum for 6 separate activity sessions.

(Troop Leaders might be best at introducing these Girl Scouts.)

Next, we will recognize our Counselors-in-Training (I and II). Seniors and Ambassadors who earn this award attend council level training and build skills needed to help them become camp counselors. They then work with younger Girl Scouts at Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois summer camp programs at Camp Dean and Camp McCormick.

(Troop Leaders might be best at introducing these Girl Scouts.)

The Volunteer-in-Training award is earned by Seniors and Ambassadors who mentor a Daisy, Brownie, Junior, or Cadette group outside of camp. The VIT must work with an adult volunteer, complete council level training, and create and implement a journey project that lasts for 3 to 6 months. We recognize our Volunteers-in-Training.

(Troop Leaders might be best at introducing these Girl Scouts.)

We will now recognize our Junior level Girl Scouts who are beginning their journey toward the Gold by taking action in their community and have earned the highest award at their level.

The Girl Scout Bronze Award was introduced in 2001 as the highest award a Girl Scout Junior can earn. After Girl Scouts complete a Junior Journey, they work as a team to discover a community issue and complete a minimum of 20 hours toward a Take Action project. 82% of Girl Scouts who earn their Bronze Award go on to achieve the Gold.

When a troop or individual is called, please come to the front as your project description is read. *(Troop Leaders might be best at introducing their troops. It is appropriate to have Girl Scouts involved in introducing themselves and briefly explaining the project)*

(Troop _____, including _____, _____, and _____. Troop _____ did _____.)
(_____ completed the Girl Scout Bronze Award on their own. They_____.)

Master of Ceremonies:

Congratulations to all Bronze Award Girl Scouts.

Next, we move on to the Girl Scout Silver Award. This is the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn. It was introduced in 1980 at the You Make a Difference Conference. After Girl Scouts complete a Cadette Journey, they can work individually or in a small group to identify a root cause of a community issue and complete a minimum of 50 hours toward a Take Action project. 96% of Girl Scouts who earn the Silver Award go on to achieve the Gold.

When a troop or individual is called, please come to the front as your project description is read. *(Troop Leaders might be best at introducing their troops. It is appropriate to have Girl Scouts involved in introducing themselves and briefly explaining the project)*

(Troop _____ , including _ , _ , _ , and _ . Troop _ did _)

(_____ completed the Girl Scout Silver Award on their own. They _____)

Master of Ceremonies:

Congratulations to all Silver Award Girl Scouts.

(This would be an appropriate time for a song, skit, poem, or speaker.)

Master of Ceremonies:

I now invite (name of individual or group) to the front to (sing, act, read or speak)

{After the song, skit, poem, or speaker}

Master of Ceremonies:

Thank you (name of individual or group)

At this time I would like to invite (name of individual) to share a brief history of the Girl Scout Gold Award. (This might be a previous Gold Award Girl Scout, a member of the GSNI Board of Directors, Highest Awards Committee, staff, or other speaker.)

Reader:

The Girl Scout Gold Award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouting; it recognizes Seniors and Ambassador Girl Scouts in grades 9 through 12 who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through sustainable and measurable Take Action projects.

2016 was the 100th anniversary of the Highest Award that a Girl Scout can earn. Since 1916 this award marked the beginning of a long tradition of recognizing Girl Scouts who make a difference in their communities and their own lives. Over the years, the name and requirements of this award have changed. It was the Golden Eaglet of Merit from 1916 to 1919 and from 1919 to 1939 it was known simply as the Golden Eaglet. From 1939 to 1940 it was the First Class Rank and from 1940 to 1963 the Curved Bar. It went back to First Class from 1963 to 1980, when the Girl Scout Gold Award was introduced.

In 1990, delegates to the Girl Scout National Council Meeting voted to keep the name of the highest award the Girl Scout Gold Award in perpetuity. So even though the requirements are adapted to the needs of the time, it will continue to be the Girl Scout Gold Award and will continue to recognize generations of young women who have made a difference in their communities and beyond.

Fulfilling the current requirements for the Girl Scout Gold Award starts with completing two Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador Journeys or having earned the Girl Scout Silver Award and completing one Journey. As Girl Scouts complete each Journey, they develop the skills that are needed to plan and implement a Take Action project. After the Journey requirements have been met, each Girl Scout will spend approximately 80 hours selecting an issue, identifying its root cause, investigating it, building a team, creating a plan, taking action, educating and inspiring others to act and reflecting upon the impact she made on her community.

To those of you who are receiving your Girl Scout Gold Award today, I welcome you. For today you join the ranks of generations of young women who have made a difference both locally and globally. Earning your Girl Scout Gold Award sets you apart - you have developed leadership abilities that will be recognized by colleges, universities, and future employers. And if you should choose to enter one of the four branches of the United States Armed Services you will do so at an advanced level.

And so, when the day is over and your Gold Award pin is safely tucked away, you will always have that inner feeling, the certain knowledge that you have accomplished something special. You will know that you are capable of completing whatever you set your mind to. Enjoy the day and all that the future holds for you!

Master of Ceremonies:

Thank you (name). Our Gold Award Girl Scouts have planned a special ceremony to reflect upon their experience.

Ladies, please present your ceremony.

(This is where the Gold Award ceremony is inserted - it is done by the Gold Award Girl Scouts only.) After ceremony is completed:

Master of Ceremonies:

At this time I invite the parents of the Gold Award Girl Scouts to please come forward and stand with their daughter.

I also invite (name/title) to the podium. The Girl Scouts have selected them to present their pin. (This may be a previous Gold Award Girl Scout, member of GSNI Board of Directors, Highest Awards Committee, GSNI staff, etc.)

Pin Presenter:

There is no greater honor to be among this elite group of young individuals. Each of these Girl Scouts are remarkable and have made their community and their world a better place. While we honor these exemplary Girl Scouts, we also know they have received support from leaders, teachers, friends, and most of all, their parents. Each Gold Award Girl Scout will recognize the love and guidance provided by parents by presenting a pin to their parent. Each Gold Award Girl Scout will also be receiving a binder containing their official Gold Award Certificate and letters of recognition from

Master of Ceremonies:

*(reads Girl Scout's name and project title and a brief explanation of the project, or announce girl's name and girl tells about her project. **EXAMPLE:** Carlee Bettler: English as a Second Language Peer Tutoring Program. Carlee also earned her Girl Scout Bronze and Silver Award)*

(Girl Scout is pinned by presenter - it is better to keep pin boxes and binders on table for distribution later. This way girl can shake hands, etc. and looks better for photos)

(Girl Scout pins parent)

(Parents may move to seats, Girl Scout stay standing at far edge of stage) (MC calls next Girl Scout)

After all Girl Scouts are called and pinned, move girls to front/center.

Master of Ceremonies or Pin Presenter:

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure to present to you (Service Unit's Name) (Year) Class of Gold Award Girl Scouts!!!!

(This next and last part, the Gold Award Charge or Challenge, MUST be read by a previous Gold Award Girls Scout. If you need assistance in locating someone, please contact GSNI Highest Awards Committee at customercare@girlscoutsni.org.)

(Name), Gold Award Girl Scout (or First Class, Curved Bar), will now present the Girl Scout Gold Award Charge.

Charge Reader:

(today's Gold Awardees should be standing on stage already, if they are not, please ask them to do so, or at least stand at their places in the audience)

You have learned to live by the principles of the Girl Scout Law and have earned your Girl Scout Gold Award, which is the highest Award a Girl Scouts can earn in Girl Scouting. The requirements are demanding, but fair. Your achievement is recognition of your perseverance and ability. It also represents years of hard work, strength in character, and more importantly, it is indicative of what lies in your future. It testifies that you have an understanding of your community and that you are willing to become involved. This is certainly an occasion for a feeling of pride in your accomplishment as well as a time for reflection and envisioning what lies ahead.

You have distinguished yourselves by your continuing commitment to the Girl Scouts, your leadership skills, and your willingness to help others. Take time to acknowledge the tremendous potential you possess. You are young women of distinction, unafraid to tackle tasks no matter how large they may seem. Your dreams need not be limited if you believe in yourselves.

You are an example to those around you. I challenge you to undertake your citizenship with solemn dedication. Be a leader but lead only toward the best. Lift up every task you do and every challenge you undertake to the highest level. This is an opportunity to use Girl Scout values to reach your full potential. Continue to be a leader and role model for others: remembering the importance of serving your community; and above all be true to yourselves.

To confirm your commitment to these high standards, I would ask that you now be joined by your sister Girl Scouts who have also met this challenge. Would all previous recipients of a Girl Scout Gold Award, First Class, Curved Bar, and Golden Eaglet please rise as you are able. Let us rededicate ourselves by stating the Girl Scout Promise:

On my honor, I will try,
To serve God and my country
To help other people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Congratulations and welcome!

Master of Ceremonies:

Our special event is coming to a close. As we end, I would like to extend sincere appreciation to all our guests for attending, thank you to the troop leaders and Service Unit team, and congratulations to the outstanding young women we recognized today.

Please join us for refreshments after the closing flag ceremony.

(Caller and color guard approach)

Caller:

Girl Scouts and Guest attention. Please stand and remove all non-religious headgear.

Color Guard attention.

Color Guard advance.

Color Guard, retire the colors.

Color Guard, retreat.

Color Guard dismissed.

Girl Scouts and guests, dismissed.

Ceremony #1- Luminaria

Girl Scout Gold Award

(9 white paper bags, black letters cut out to spell GOLD AWARD, edged in gold glitter glued to front of bags, tea lights inside bags to be lit by Girl Scouts as each letter script is read)

G - represents Going for the Gold. To earn the Girl Scout Gold Award there are specific steps and standards of excellence we needed to follow. Our flame ceremony will explain the process each of us individually completed to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award.

O - stands for one. Each of us selected one community-based issue or concern that was of particular relevance or sparked passion and interest.

L - symbolizes learning about the issue. We had to focus on a specific aspect that needed to be addressed and investigate where the focus of our project should be.

D - signifies developing a team. A Gold Award is an individual project but not done in isolation. We each collaborated with experts in the field of our project's focus as well as asked for help from classmates, teachers, friends and businesses.

A - represents addressing the root cause. By recognizing why an issue is occurring it allowed us to each create our Gold Award Project plan. We planned not only to accomplish our project but to ensure its sustainability for the future.

W - symbolizes the why questions we answered as we explained our project proposal to the Highest Awards Committee: why the project matters, who is on the team, what makes it sustainable, where it will take place and when will it be completed.

A - stands for action. The Gold Award Project plan is approved, the materials are gathered, and the team is assembled. In running our project, we have learned to take action, adjust and adapt to challenges, and demonstrate leadership.

R - signifies reflection. Upon completing the project, we shared our results with the Highest Awards Committee. We informed our community on the impact of our project. Today we connect with sister Girl Scouts to inspire them to Go for the Gold.

D - represents distinction. In earning our Girl Scout Gold Award, we have individually grown in our personal skills and abilities. We thank all those who have helped us along our path including friends, mentors, leaders, and our parents. We are ready to continue advocating the high ideals of leadership and excellence we have learned as Girl Scouts.

Ceremony #2 - Ribbons and Candles

Girl Scout Gold Award

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.

May we always remember the spirit in which Juliette Gordon Low began this organization to spread to all Girl Scouts the confidence, courage, and knowledge that they can do anything.

I will do my best to be Honest and fair.
The light blue ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of honesty and fairness. A Girl Scout works honestly and keeps her promise. She is fair in all she does and those she meets.

I will do my best to be Friendly and helpful.
The yellow ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of friendship and thoughtfulness. A Girl Scout is amiable and loyal to her friends. She helps others wherever and whenever she can.

I will do my best to be Considerate and caring.
The light green ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of kindness and warmth. A Girl Scout works well with others and looks out for the well-being of others.

I will do my best to be Courageous and strong.
The red ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of adventure and independence. A Girl Scout attempts new tasks and braves new endeavors. She is confident and self-assured in her actions.

I will do my best to be Responsible for what I say and do.
The orange ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of ownership and pride in her work. She readily admits her strengths and weaknesses and is aware of the consequences of her actions. A Girl Scout is up front with her intentions.

I will do my best to Respect myself and others.
The purple ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of integrity. A Girl Scout directs her thoughts and deeds to encompass her own beliefs and to be sensitive to, and respectful of the beliefs of those around her.

I will do my best to Respect authority.
The magenta ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of regard for another's position. A Girl Scout understands the importance of having a leader of a group to make final decisions. She works with that leader to make the best decisions for the good of the group.

I will do my best to Use resources wisely.

The green ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of being careful with resources. She uses her materials, money, time and energy wisely. A Girl Scout does not waste the Earth's resources.

I will do my best to Make the world a better place.

The pink ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of improvement. A Girl Scout strives to be clean, conserve, and enrich the world around her. She believes it is important to leave a place better than how she found it.

I will do my best to Be a sister to every Girl Scout.

The violet ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's loyalty to sisters all over the world. A Girl Scout is always ready to accept more friends into her ever-widening circle. She treats all of her sisters with kindness, acceptance, and warmth.

Ceremony #3 - Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

Girl Scout Gold Award

(This ceremony would be best for at least 3 Girl Scouts but can be separated so more can read parts of the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Candles can be lit for those parts as well if needed. It would also be fine for the whole group to say the Promise and Law together and just light candles for the Past, Present, and Future segments - just count your candles accordingly)

The Promise:

By honoring the Girl Scout Promise we demonstrate our courage, confidence, and character. As Gold Award Girl Scouts, we know that we have the power to make the world a better place.

On my honor, I will try, to serve God and my country To help other people at all times

And to live by the Girl Scout Law

The Law:

The Girl Scout Law represents the best of all of us: our core values that we take with us for the rest of our lives.

I am honest and fair.

I am friendly and helpful.

I am considerate and caring. I am courageous and strong.

I am responsible for what I say and do. I respect myself and others.

I respect authority.

I use resources wisely.

I make the world a better place. I am a sister to every Girl Scout.

The Past:

Our Gold Award Ceremony today embodies where we came from, all that we are, and all that we one day hope to be. This candle represents our past. We remember our roots as Daisies and we cherish the traditions that have been passed on for over a century.

The Present:

This candle is for the present. As we transition into the next chapter of our lives, we utilize all that we learned as Girl Scouts and we are actively making decisions today that will change all of our tomorrows.

The Future:

Knowing our abilities and strengths we go into tomorrow as leaders. This candle burns for our bright future, our promise to ourselves for tomorrow and our wish of success for all the future Gold Award Girl Scouts to follow in our footsteps.



Girl Scout Highest Award Service Unit Celebration

Who: (Your SU Name) Service Unit

Honoring: Gold Award Girl Scouts (include names) and Silver Award and Bronze Award Girl Scouts

When:

Where:

Please RSVP to (if using RSVP's):



girl scouts
of northern illinois

Before the Highest Awards Ceremony

This form must be submitted before June 28 each year. **All events must take place before September 15.** All events must submit a form to Customer Care at customercare@girlscoutsni.org

Name of SU _____ Name of SU Manager _____

Name of Event Coordinator _____

Contact of Event Coordinator (email and phone number) _____

Date of planned celebration _____ Time _____

Location of celebration (full address) _____

Describe your celebration event:

How are you involving Girl Scouts in the planning of the celebration?

How many awardees do you think will attend?

Gold	Silver	Bronze	CIT II or VIT	CIT	Cadette PA

Does your Service Unit have a Medal of Honor or Bronze Cross recipient? If yes, who are they? _____

Would the Girl Scouts like to invite members of GSNI's Board of Directors to the event?

Are there GSNI staff members that the Girl Scouts would like to invite to the event?

Participation is based on individual schedules, staff, and board members. Effort will be made but can't be guaranteed.

I would like GSNI to alert the media. Meaning media representatives may show up to report on the event. Please note that just because the media was invited does not mean that they will show up.

This form must be submitted at least **one month in advance of the event.**

TWO weeks before event, please provide a list of names and troops attending to help with media promotion.

Service Unit Highest Awards Celebration Event Summary

Complete within two weeks after your event. This form and **copies of all receipts** should be submitted to Customer Care at customercare@girlscoutsni.org to receive financial support from the council. All documents **must be submitted no later than September 15.**

Name of Service Unit _____

Name of Event Coordinator _____ Phone number _____

Email for Event Coordinator _____

Name of Service Unit Manager _____

Date of event _____ Location of event _____

Number of awardees that **attended the event** _____

Please attach sheet with names and troop number for all.

Gold	Silver	Bronze	CIT II or VIT	CIT	Cadette PA

Number of Medal of Honor or Bronze Cross recipients who attended event (include names):

Describe your event:

Who attended your event?

GS Daisy	GS Brownie	GS Junior	GS Cadette	GS Senior	GS Ambassador	GS Adult	Non-member adult	Other children

Did you have any special guests at your event? If so, who?

How did you promote the event?

How did you include the Girl Scouts on the planning of this event?

What went well?

What suggestions would you give to the next coordinator of this event?

Please attach your final budget for the event: Income and Expenses

Your service unit has an allotment of financial support from the council for this event. However, you will only be reimbursed for items spent on the event up to that amount. Please provide copies of all receipts.

Checks will be sent to the service unit. Who should the check be mailed to?

Check should be written to (example GS Service Unit _____)

Address to mail check to

Members of your planning team

Thank you for helping us create community awareness of our amazing Girl Scouts and their achievements! When submitting photos to be used by GSNI's Marketing & Communications Department to create event press releases and social media posts, the following types of photos are preferred:

- Gold Award Girl Scouts getting pinned (include Girl Scouts and parent names)
- Individual Gold Award Girl Scouts (include Girl Scout name)
- Gold Award Group (include Girl Scout names)
- Groups: Silver Awards, Bronze Awards, special awards, bridging, etc. ("Troop 75 received their Bronze Award." or "Brownie Troop 90 bridges to Juniors." or "Daisy Troop 1870 earns their Summit Award.")

*For Highest Award photos, please supply the title of the project and a very brief description (1-2 sentences).

Photo submissions can be sent to: customercare@girlscoutsni.org subject line: **highest award celebration.**

When using your phone as a camera:

- Please be sure that photos submitted are in focus-no blurred images.
- No photos taken at a distance, please get close to your subject(s)
- Save all images in a large format.

For best image quality, please use a digital camera if possible.