

girlscouts 
of west central florida

Gold Award Ceremony



June 10, 2023
Hillsborough Community College



EVENT PROGRAM

Welcome

Cami Gibertini, Board President

Flag Ceremony

Girl Scout Color Guard

Gold Award Alumna Message

Jessica Cobine, Author

Award Ceremony

Mary Pat King, CEO

Gold Award Presentation

Vanessa Jones & Yvette Segura, Board Members
Jillian Painter, High Awards Coordinator

Scholarship Presentation

Retired Lt. Col., USAF Jean Kohler

Closing Ceremony

Cami Gibertini, Board President

Gold Award Ceremony Closing

Cami Gibertini, Board President

Retiring of the Colors

Girl Scout Color Guard

Girl Scout Color Guard Members: Emma Anderson, Troop 2337;
Emma Anderson, Troop 2300; Grace Crosbie, Troop 2300;
Alice Habgood, Troop 2300; Grace Prator, Troop 2300;
and Madison Woods, Troop 2300.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to Girl Scouts of West Central Florida's 2022-2023 Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony!

Throughout its 100 year history, the Gold Award has established its legacy as the mark of the remarkable for all the young women who achieve it. Although its name evolved from its beginnings in 1916 as the Golden Eaglet of Merit, the purpose and prestige of the Gold Award has remained firm as the highest award in Girl Scouting—a testament to the leadership and determination of every girl who earns it.

Thank you for being here to honor the outstanding achievements of these 32 young women who have continued that legacy by earning their Girl Scout Gold Award. I happily look toward the future as younger GSWCF Girl Scouts follow in their footsteps with 109 Cadettes being recognized for earning the Girl Scout Silver Award and 140 Juniors being recognized for earning the Girl Scout Bronze Award. These young leaders all demonstrate hard work and passion, and in doing so, touch lives and improve our current and future communities.

These Gold Award Girl Scouts join the alliance of women who took the initiative to assert themselves as leaders and community advocates, and made meaningful, sustainable changes locally and around the world. Please spend some time to learn about this year's inspiring young women and their Gold Award projects. I promise that you will be inspired by their dedication, perseverance, compassion and overall character. Each of these girls has overcome many obstacles in the last year in order to complete her project. They are our future business and community leaders, and they possess the resiliency, skills and ambition to overcome whatever challenges may come their way. We honor them as they now move into a new phase of their lives that will continue them on the path to becoming enthusiastic visionaries.

My sincere congratulations to all of the 2022-2023 High Award recipients. These young women are leaders and innovative change-makers. We can all be confident that whatever their aspirations, with Girl Scouts as part of their backgrounds, these young women will continue to make all of us proud! I wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

Finally, I would like to recognize and thank all of the Girl Scout Gold Award mentors and parents for guiding the girls toward achieving their goals, and to the Gold Award Committee members for coaching these girls through their journey of going Gold.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cami Gibertini". The signature is fluid and cursive.

CAMI GIBERTINI

President,
Girl Scouts of West Central Florida

The Mark of the Truly Remarkable

The Girl Scout Gold Award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouting, recognizing girls who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through remarkable TAKE ACTION projects that have sustainable impact in their communities and beyond. In approximately 100 years, one million girls have earned the Gold Award or its equivalent. University research indicates that adding the Gold Award to a college application is a critical element in the admissions decision process.

- ▶ According to the 2012 National Girl Scout Alumnae Study, Gold Award Girl Scouts place significantly higher importance on having a successful career, financial security and being leaders, and they are more likely to believe that they are achieving their life's ambitions.
- ▶ A number of colleges and universities recognize the achievements and leadership abilities of Gold Award Girl Scouts by establishing scholarship programs for them. Girl Scouts of the USA publishes the scholarships for Girl Scouts at [girlscouts.org/scholarships](https://www.girlscouts.org/scholarships) and all Gold Award Girl Scouts and their families are strongly encouraged to check it out. Seniors in high school can also apply for a council scholarship.
- ▶ A Girl Scout who has earned her Gold Award immediately rises one rank in any U.S. military branch.
- ▶ Gold Award Girl Scouts are acknowledged by many government, state, local, and non-profit organizations.

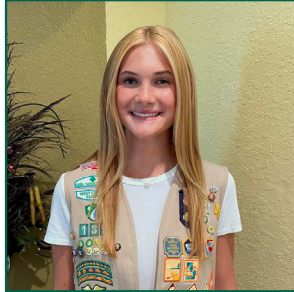
Through sustainable Girl Scout Silver and Gold Award projects, girls find the root cause of community issues and take action to improve lives now and in the future!



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



ELAINE FEASTER
First Place



SAMANTHA SQUIRES
SECOND PLACE

Ann Hensler Scholarship

The Ann Hensler Scholarship is in honor of Ann Hensler, a past GSWCF Executive Director and a 1992 Woman of Distinction who was with GSWCF for approximately 10 years. Ann passed away from cancer in 1999, and in her will she donated funds to be used as a scholarship for Gold Award Girl Scouts in recognition of their accomplishments.



EMILY ALLEN

GSWCF Scholarship

Funded by ad purchases in the Gold Award Ceremony program, the GSWCF scholarship is an opportunity for Gold Award Girl Scouts in the West Central Florida area. This scholarship provides Gold Award Girl Scouts with funds to help support their higher education.

GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS **girl scouts** gold award



EMILY ALLEN
Trinity's Serenity

PINELLAS COUNTY

Emily's project allowed the community to come together to learn how to garden, enjoy nature's beauty and improve their mental health. Emily created two gardens—a butterfly garden and a sustainable vegetable garden at Trinity Education Academy of Christian Homeschoolers—since many homes do not have the space for a personal garden, the funds to start one or the knowledge to grow one. Emily provided students with a class on sustainable gardening as well as created a curriculum outlining gardening tips, types of plants, the butterfly life cycle and how mental health can be improved through gardening. The curriculum she created was distributed to Keep Pinellas Beautiful and two Trinity schoolteachers. Emily reached more than 500 students, 200 school families and 100 church members. Her curriculum will continue to be shared and her gardens will be used for years to come. Emily graduated from Pinellas County Homeschool in 2023.



SKYLAR ANDERSON
A Place to Remember

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Skylar created an ADA accessible deck for the elderly and disabled community at Tampa Sailing Squadron in Apollo Beach. Skylar wanted everyone in her community to have the same opportunities to access this beautiful location, without barriers. She engaged the help of friends, family and her Girl Scout troop to build a large wooden deck with two ADA accessible ramps. The deck was built along the water, which provided the elderly and disabled community access to a peaceful spot to enjoy a sunset. During the building process, Skylar spread the word about her project by creating flyers and posting information on social media. Her project will be sustained by a younger Girl Scout troop that will complete beautification workshops as needed. Skylar graduated from Dr. Earl J. Lennard High School in 2022.



COURTNEY BENNETT
Project Inclusion

PINELLAS COUNTY

Courtney's Gold Award project addressed the issue of stereotypes and exclusion. Courtney's goal was to break down stereotypes at her school and show students that everyone deserves to be included and treated equally, no matter their interests and values. Courtney created a survey for high school students about stereotypes. She analyzed the survey results and created an Instagram page to highlight three main stereotype groups: athletes, fine art students and academic students. She posted information on the stereotypes and how to break them, interviews with students, and interactive story highlights. Courtney also wrote a play about stereotypes in school, which was performed and presented at the District IV Thespians Festival and the Florida State Thespians Festival. Courtney's project will be sustained by a group of Girl Scouts who will continue to post on the Project Inclusion Instagram page. Courtney graduated from Osceola Fundamental High School in 2023.

GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS



YASMINE BOUANANI

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Adopt Don't Shop

Animal shelters across the country are packed with dogs looking for their forever home, and for Yasmine's project, she wanted to help those animals in some way. Yasmine created an Instagram account to educate people on why they should adopt from an animal shelter and not a breeder, as well as ways to help the cause. Yasmine made 30 care packages for newly adopted dogs that were donated to Paw Print Hearts animal shelter. The care packages included items such as treats, toys, a travel water bowl and a no-sew blanket. Yasmine uploaded a YouTube video demonstrating how to make no-sew blankets so others could make and donate them to animal shelters as well. Yasmine's project will be sustained by a family friend who will continue advocating for the cause and posting on her Instagram page. Yasmine graduated from Alonso High School in 2022.



SHAW BOULEY

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Hospice Helpers

Shaw understood the importance of giving back to the elderly community who were in hospice care. Many people in hospice care do not receive visits or have loved ones present in their lives. Shaw wanted to show some compassion for these elderly people. She hosted six workshops with seven Girl Scout troops to create birthday cards for hospice patients so that they felt loved on their special day. During the workshops, Shaw taught girls the importance of hospice care services. Once her project concluded, Shaw delivered more than 150 birthday cards to Chapter Health Hospice. Shaw created a website documenting her project. Her website was shared in the Chapter Health Hospice newsletter, reaching more than 300 community members. Shaw's sister Mattie will sustain her project by continuing to host workshops to make cards for hospice patients for years to come. Shaw graduated from Newsome High School in 2023.



ABIGAIL CARDOZA

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Horse Mounting Platform

Abigail advocated for people with disabilities by building an ADA accessible ramp at the horse ranch center of Camp Osprey. The ramp allowed children and adults with limited mobility the opportunity to ride a horse. This created a safe and inclusive environment for disabled people, where they could experience the same independence and excitement that non-disabled visitors at the ranch did. Abigail created a Facebook page, a demonstrational video of how to safely use the ramp and mount and dismount a horse, and a brochure regarding her project and the benefits of an ADA accessible horse ramp platform. The brochure was distributed in public places such as the local library and chamber of commerce. Abigail's project will be sustained by staff at Camp Osprey, as well as the ranch owner, Gary Bembery, who will use the ramp indefinitely. Abigail graduated from Sumner High School in 2023.

GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS **girl scouts** gold award



GEORGIA CHANDLER
Royal Trouble

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Georgia's Gold Award project addressed the issue of the decline of the Migratory Monarch Butterfly and its addition to the Endangered Species List. With the help of the Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation, Georgia created a pamphlet to educate her local community on the Migratory Monarch Butterfly, as well as ways to help its population recover. The pamphlet was distributed digitally through a QR code that was accessible at two local parks and a local garden store. Through small actions in local communities, Georgia knew a global impact could be made to ensure Monarch Butterflies were around for generations to come. Georgia's project will be sustained by her mentor, Anita Camacho, who will ensure the digital file remains active and up-to-date. Chris Thompson with City of Tampa, agreed to store the QR code on the city's parks and recreation website. Georgia graduated from Henry B. Plant High School in 2023.



ELAINE FEASTER
Literacy Awareness

Hillsborough County

Elaine created a sustainable literacy awareness website for caregivers and children. The caregiver section focused on providing information about literacy, examples of how to help children with reading, and other resources. The children's section provided resources for many read-aloud videos and fun learning sites. Elaine promoted her website by creating social media accounts, designing bookmarks for children and business cards for adults, and collected books and created a stamp so she could stamp the books before donating them. Elaine collected more than 4,400 books, all stamped with her website address and the phrase "Read. Share. Repeat." to encourage others to share the book when finished. She also distributed packets to 34 elementary schools to highlight the importance of literacy. Her project will be sustained by the National Honor Society at Freedom High School, 34 Hillsborough County elementary schools and by Hillsborough County School Board Members. Elaine graduated from Freedom High School in 2023.



ISABELA FRY
Comfort Care Kits

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Isabela's Gold Award Project focused on children in the foster care system. Often, children entering foster care are limited to the number of belongings they are allowed to take with them. Isabela wanted to bring comfort to these children during such an overwhelming transition, so she created 50 care packages filled with hygiene and personal items, as well as small gifts. She delivered these care packages to Joshua House foster home. Isabela also created a website and a pamphlet filled with information about the foster care system in the United States, which was shared with schools and libraries in Hillsborough County. Isabela's project will be sustained by the Kappa Delta Sorority at the University of South Florida. The sorority will continue making care packages and delivering them to foster facilities like Joshua Home. Isabela graduated from Newsome High School in 2022.

GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS



RILEY GLOGOWSKI
Gardening School

POLK COUNTY

Riley's project addressed the issue of water mismanagement. Many people do not know how to properly manage water. Riley aimed to eliminate this issue in her community by creating a curriculum to teach kids about water management and sustainability. Her curriculum consisted of a lesson plan that explored water conservation, water pollution and how to grow food sustainably. Riley created a presentation to educate others on how doing simple tasks can make a difference. She also built a raised garden bed for hands-on learning. Kids used the water they collected sustainably to grow their own crops. Her project will be sustained by Mrs. Matousek, who will continue teaching Riley's lesson plan at Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred each year. A gardening club was also created to continue caring for her garden. Riley graduated from Winter Haven Senior High School in 2023.



ALEXIS HATCH
Timber Stand Improvement

Marion County

Alexis addressed the issue of the loss of pine forests in Florida by preserving a half-acre of the natural longleaf pine forest on the Camp Wildwood property. Longleaf pine is the most fire, insect and disease resistant southern pine species, yet roughly 97% of longleaf pine forests have been lost due to invasive species overtaking the land. Alexis used the Timber Stand Improvement method of filling drilled holes in the trunks of invasive trees with the pesticide Glyphosate to reduce the number of competing trees. She spread awareness about longleaf pine trees by creating an information board at Camp Wildwood, a brochure that was distributed to community members and the Florida Forestry Department, and a website that explained Timber Stand Improvement, the importance of longleaf pines and why they are endangered. Alexis' project will be sustained by younger Girl Scouts who agreed to take over the website and distribution of her brochures. Alexis graduated from Forest High School in 2022.



MADISON HURST
Golden Smiles

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Madison advocated for pediatric cancer patients in Tampa Bay. Each year, an estimated 15,780 children are diagnosed with cancer in the United States. Madison wanted to bring comfort to these children and their families, so she made 24 care bags that were distributed to various hospitals in Tampa Bay. The bags contained items such as stuffed animals, puzzles, journals, card games, water bottles and mints, which aimed to bring kids joy during their treatment or hospitalization. Madison also created an Instagram page to increase awareness of childhood cancer, which has gained more than 110 followers since its inception. Madison's project will be sustained by two of her classmates. They will continue posting on the Instagram page and plan to make more comfort bags next year. Madison graduated from Newsome High School in 2023.

GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS **girl scouts** gold award



Pinellas County



LAUREN KACINKO

Music is a Universal Language

Lauren's Gold Award Project spread awareness about Deaf culture and bridged the gap between the hearing and Deaf communities through a combination of music, dance and American Sign Language (ASL). Lauren found that there were very few resources that educate people about Deaf culture. American Sign Language is not widely taught, which results in deaf people feeling isolated from the hearing world.

Lauren advocated for this issue by creating a music video for hearing people who are not familiar with the Deaf community. The music video showed the beauty of ASL and encouraged hearing people to learn the language and to study Deaf culture. Lauren also created and distributed flyers about ASL and Deaf culture to Palm Harbor Library, Palm Harbor Parks & Recreation Center and Help Us Gather (HUG). Lauren's project will be sustained by Troop 60809, whose members will refill the flyers at Palm Harbor Library and share Lauren's YouTube video. Lauren graduated from Palm Harbor University High School in 2022.



NITYA KATWALA

Bayshore Reading Buddies

Nitya advocated for the elderly community at Bayshore Pointe Nursing and Rehab Center. During the COVID-19 pandemic, residents of senior living facilities were isolated from the outside world due to health risks. Visits from loved ones became restricted or halted completely. This increased levels of confusion, loneliness, depression and anxiety among residents. Even as COVID restrictions were lifted, visitors remained limited.

With the help of the activities coordinator at Bayshore Pointe, Nitya created activities for residents to increase their socialization with others. Some of these activities included bingo nights, coffee socials, reading with volunteers and other group activities. Nitya also worked to make Bayshore Pointe a recognized organization with whom one could volunteer and earn service hours through her school. The service club KIWI at Nitya's high school will sustain her project. They will continue working with the activities coordinator to plan events and set up time slots for visitors. Nitya graduated from Henry B. Plant High School in 2023.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY



EDY KROOK

Random Acts of Appreciation

Edy worked to encourage teens to show appreciation for adults in their communities. Edy believed that many workers—including teachers, bus drivers, nurses and first responders—often felt underappreciated for their hard work. Edy addressed this issue by working with a group of teens to create a club that completed monthly appreciation projects for different groups of workers. Some of these projects included

making thank you posters for bus drivers, donating snacks to healthcare workers and writing thank you cards to teachers. Edy created an Instagram account to spread awareness about her Gold Award Project and to document the appreciation projects her club completed. Edy's project inspired other students to join her club at Sunlake High School and elect officers in leadership positions who will continue to complete appreciation projects and sustain it for years to come. Edy graduated from Sunlake High School in 2023.

PASCO COUNTY

GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS



EMMA LEFFERTS

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

The Importance of Art in School

Emma shared her passion for the arts by working with elementary students at Beach Park Montessori School to design and paint a mural. Emma's Gold Award Project aimed to encourage youth to follow their passions, express themselves creatively and gain an appreciation for art. Emma made a website and shared it with her community through libraries and coffee shops. Her website details how art improves mental health and wellness, teaches empathy, and can increase civic engagement. Emma hosted a workshop to teach students technical painting skills. With the help of Coloring the Community and other Girl Scouts, the students painted a mural in the school's courtyard. The mural celebrated the students' artistic abilities and will hopefully empower them to pursue art in the future. The mural will be enjoyed by students, teachers and families for years to come. Emma also created a website that details her Gold Award Project as well as how art improves mental health and wellness, teaches empathy, and can increase civic engagement. Emma graduated from Tampa Preparatory School in 2023.



PRESLEY LOMEL

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

A Fresh Start

Presley advocated for pediatric cancer patients who were ready to return to school. Often when children are diagnosed with cancer, they must spend a lengthy period away from school and their peers. This causes difficulty readjusting when they are able to return to the classroom. Presley wanted to make this adjustment easier, so she donated 54 backpacks filled with school supplies and comfort items such as stuffed animals, hammocks, card games and an encouraging letter. These backpacks were distributed to children at the Children's Cancer Center in Tampa. Presley also posted on social media and created a pamphlet to raise awareness about pediatric cancer and the programs and services that the Children's Cancer Center provides. Her campaign to gain supporters reached more than 350 people. Presley's project will be sustained by a group of her peers, who will continue to serve the Children's Cancer Center. Presley graduated from H. B. Plant High School in 2023.



MARIAM MASUD

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Ghosted

Mariam's project focused on improving mental health in teens through art therapy. Teens are often stressed about their newfound responsibilities, school and their future, and don't know how to cope in a healthy way. Mariam wanted to offer teens an outlet to relieve their stress and improve their mental wellbeing. With the support of the Temple Terrace Art Council, Mariam hosted four art workshops at Temple Terrace Public Library, as well as created an art therapy workbook to provide teens a way to express their emotions using art techniques such as painting, sculpting clay, crochet and zentangle drawing. Her workbook reached 40 troops and more than 200 Girl Scouts. Digital and print versions of her workbook will continue to be shared among the community. Mariam graduated from Hillsborough Virtual school in 2022.

GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS **girl scouts** gold award



SILVANA MESSINA

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Care for Foster Care

Silvana advocated for children and teens in foster care. Silvana addressed misconceptions about foster care by creating a website on which one can write a message of support for foster children, Instagram page where she shared her research and a campus connection group at her school to educate teens about foster care and the issues surrounding the system. The group made homemade art and wrote positive affirmations that were gifted to children at Joshua House foster home. Silvana also hosted a donation drive at her school to collect items to gift to foster children for Christmas. After the donation drive, Silvana hosted a workshop at which students assembled 100 Christmas gift bags. The gift bags were distributed to local foster facilities in Tampa Bay. Silvana's project also aimed to prevent foster parent burnout. She gave foster parents boxes of Girl Scout cookies and handwritten notes of encouragement. Silvana's Gold Award Project reached more than 200 foster children, families and workers. Silvana's project will be sustained by the Care for Foster Care campus connection group at her school. The group will continue hosting weekly meetings and completing service projects. Silvana graduated from Cambridge Christian School in 2023.



ISHA PATEL

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Power Play

Isha advocated for youth human trafficking victims by building a play therapy center for Frolics of Hope Africa in Kenya. Frolics of Hope Africa is an organization that rescues, rehabilitates and reintegrates children who have been victims of human trafficking. The play therapy center she built helped children heal from their trauma. While in Kenya, Isha spoke at a conference in front of government officials to discuss ways to combat human trafficking in the country. Isha spoke as a panelist to provide knowledge about the different types of human trafficking, why the crime goes undetected and why victims of human trafficking need support after they are rescued. Isha's Gold Award Project will be sustained by Troop 33132, which will continue spreading awareness about human trafficking, and by Frolics of Hope Africa, who will use the therapy center for years to come. Isha will graduate from Berkeley Preparatory School in 2024.



SAYLOR PURKS

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

The Journey to Becoming a Guide Dog

Saylor's project was inspired by the Southeastern Guide Dog's (SEGD) life-changing partnership between dogs and their owners. Saylor knew that many people who are visually impaired or disabled struggle to get through their daily routines. For some, a trained service dog proved to drastically improve their quality of life. Saylor participated in the "SEGD puppy starter program," which included raising a puppy through the first three months of its life, before it moved on to guide dog training. Saylor documented her journey and raised awareness about the use of guide dogs by creating a YouTube video, flyer, and Facebook and Instagram pages. She also held an informational session with families in her neighborhood about the importance of fostering, the process, and how it improves the lives of visually impaired or disabled individuals. After the program ended, Saylor's puppy Stella was able to move on to the next step in training to become a guide dog. Saylor's project will be sustained by Troop 1310, who will continue sharing her video, flyer and social media pages to get others involved with SEG. Saylor graduated from Henry B. Plant High School in 2023.

GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

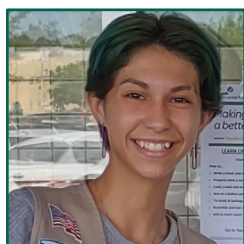


EMMA REAM

PINELLAS COUNTY

Juvenile Diabetes Project

Emma's Gold Award project aimed to spread awareness about juvenile type 1 diabetes and raise money for children with diabetes to attend a diabetes summer camp. Emma has type 1 diabetes, and when she was younger, she attended a diabetes camp. The camp taught her how to cope with her illness and helped her connect with other kids who were living with diabetes. Emma wanted to give diabetic kids whose families could not afford the camp the opportunity to attend. Emma organized a high school softball game fundraiser that raised \$2,500 for camp scholarships. Emma spread the message about her project by posting on social media and handing out flyers. She also created a YouTube video that explained her journey with diabetes and ways to donate to the cause. Emma's project will be sustained by her softball team, whose members will host an annual softball fundraising game to continue spreading awareness and raising funds to help children with diabetes go to camp. Emma graduated from East Lake High School in 2022.



LISA ROSARIO

HERNANDO COUNTY

Home Economics Tutoring Videos

Lisa's project addressed the issue of a lack of home economic life skills being instilled in children and young adults. Lisa grew up in a household that prioritized teaching her life skills, and as she got older, she realized that many people around her were not taught those same skills. Lisa tackled that issue by creating a series of videos demonstrating skills such as baking, cleaning, cooking, sewing, pioneering and camping. There was a total of 14 videos created that were uploaded to Lisa's YouTube channel. Lisa promoted her project by creating flyers and posting on various social media platforms. Her project will be sustained by Mrs. Jennifer Griffith, who will continue sharing her flyer and directing children and young adults to Lisa's YouTube videos. Lisa graduated from Nature Coast Technical High School in 2022.



KATHLEEN ROSET

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Veterans Appreciation - Bench Project

Kathleen's Gold Award Project aimed to show local veterans an appreciation for their service and the sacrifices they made for their country. With the help of a local civic group and members of her community, Kathleen raised more than \$4,500 and built four benches to commemorate different branches of the military at American Legion Post 138. American Legion Post 138 overlooks beautiful Tampa Bay, yet there was no place to sit to enjoy the view and reflect. Kathleen built the benches so that veterans and military families would have a place to relax and enjoy nature. On Veterans Day, Kathleen hosted a dedication ceremony that had more than 20 attendees and was broadcasted on FOX13. This news coverage raised awareness of her Gold Award Project and American Legion Post 138. She also made several presentations to local civic groups about the importance of honoring our veterans and ways people can help. The benches that Kathleen built will be used by the community indefinitely. Kathleen graduated from Henry B. Plant High School in 2023.

GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS **girl scouts** gold award



TAYLOR RUSSELL

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Art Rocks!

Taylor advocated for the elderly community at Tampa Bay Health and Rehabilitation Center. During the COVID-19 pandemic, there were increased levels of depression and anxiety among residents of senior living facilities. Taylor wanted to create an environment in which the elderly could feel connected with the outdoors to improve their quality of life in a safe manner. With the help of the Steinbrenner JROTC,

Taylor created a beautiful rock and wood garden outside of the facility. Because of Taylor's Garden, residents were motivated to go outdoors and enjoy the fresh air on the property. Even during tough times, the garden brought joy to many residents. Taylor raised awareness of her Gold Award Project by creating a website, making a video and hosting painting workshops. Taylor's project will be sustained by the Steinbrenner JROTC, whose members will continue working with the Tampa Bay Health and Rehabilitation Center to maintain the garden. Taylor graduated from Steinbrenner High School in 2022.



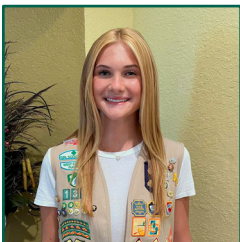
AUDREY SHELBY

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

ETAP Demonstrational Videos & Trash Clean Up

Audrey's Gold Award Project addressed the issue of trash pollution in our waterways. Audrey worked with the Tampa Bay Estuary program to create a demonstrational video on the Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol (ETAP) process. ETAP is a standard method for collecting and assessing litter data to help communities characterize and quantify trash pollution to identify trends. Audrey's training video was used to teach

workers and volunteers how to properly collect and catalogue trash in a way that produced reliable data. Audrey also created a pamphlet that taught the importance of picking up litter and participating in trash cleanups, as well as included information about ETAP and how to access her video. Audrey's pamphlet was distributed to USF, FGCU, a Girl Scout Troop and a few local stores. Audrey's project will be sustained by the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, which will continue using her video to educate people on the ETAP process. Audrey graduated from Strawberry Crest High School in 2022.



SAMANTHA SQUIRES

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Planting for a Purpose

Samantha's project aimed to inspire children to learn, observe and explore their environment. Research shows that the average American child spends about four to seven minutes a day playing outside and more than seven hours a day in front of a screen. Samantha wanted to combat this issue in her community by planting a rain garden at a local charter school. The rain garden created a space for children

to observe and explore their environment, which aimed to spark their interest in creating their own rain garden. Samantha created a pamphlet, website and Instagram page to promote her project and to serve as an educational tool for those who wanted to build their own garden. Samantha's project will be sustained by the charter school's National Junior Honor Society. The group will maintain the garden, as well as share her pamphlet and website with other students. Samantha graduated from Tampa Catholic High School in 2023.

GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS



MAGGIE WARREN

Intuitive Teens

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Maggie taught teens around the Tampa Bay area how to live a balanced lifestyle. According to research, nearly 3% of teens in the U.S. who are between 13 and 18 years old have an eating disorder. Maggie wanted to combat this issue in her local community by creating a club dedicated to teaching teens ways to prevent or recover from an eating disorder. Maggie hosted eight meetings focused on intuitive eating, nutrition science, cooking, goal setting and mindfulness. Her goal was to teach teens how to have a healthy relationship with food and their body. Maggie also created an Instagram page on which she posted information about the meetings and a summary of what was discussed so those who could not attend the meeting still had access to valuable information. Maggie continued to lead the club after the completion of her project. The club will continue her project's message and advocacy once she graduates. Maggie will graduate from Plant High School in 2024.



ABIGAIL WEBER

The Curtain- Importance of Theater in Schools & Community

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Abigail's project focused on sharing the importance of theater. Abigail believed that there was often a lack of support for theater programs in both schools and the community. Abigail addressed this issue by creating a website dedicated to informing people about the importance of theater, the benefits of participating in theater, the history of theater and the lack of recognition of these programs in schools. She aimed to inspire people to support local theater communities in the Tampa Bay area. Abigail promoted her project by posting flyers around her school and sharing her website link with peers. Abigail's project will be sustained by a group of people in her theatre troupe. They will continue sharing Abigail's website and advocating for performing arts. Abigail graduated from Plant High School in 2023.



EMMA WEILAND

Wellness Matters

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Emma's Gold Award project focused on the importance of teens' mental well-being. Many teens do not know healthy coping skills and ways to alleviate stress. Emma addressed this issue by hosting a "Wellness Matters" event at the conclusion of Mental Health Awareness Spirit Week at her school. More than 100 students participated. Students learned strategies to relieve stress, general information on mental well-being, counselor resources and the importance of communication. Two local non-profit organizations, the school's guidance counselor and the Yoga & Wellness Club helped Emma and her classmates host the event. Emma promoted her project by creating a flyer that was shared on social media. It is estimated to have reached more than 200 students, staff members and families. Emma will graduate from Bell Creek Academy in 2024.

GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS gold award



AMANDA WHITTLESEY

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Ready, Set, Grow!

Amanda taught young children from Seaborn Day School how to care for a vegetable garden. Gardening is known to help children develop skills such as patience, independence, gentleness and cognition. Amanda wanted young kids to reap the benefits of watching something grow from a seed to something greater, so she built a raised garden bed and created a curriculum to teach kids how to grow vegetables.

Throughout the duration of her project, her students planted seeds, nurtured the plants, watched them grow and harvested the vegetables once they were grown. Her students were able to eat the vegetables that they grew and learned about their nutritional value. Amanda created an informational flyer that was shared at a local library. Amanda shares her curriculum on her Facebook page to raise awareness. Her project will be sustained by staff members at Seaborn Day School, who will continue tending to her garden. Amanda graduated from Robinson Senior High School in 2023.



AYLA YEBBA

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Honoring Our Flag

Ayla's Gold Award Project focused on properly and respectfully retiring American flags. Ayla believed that there was an overabundance of tattered and worn American flags in storage, awaiting a proper dignified disposal. Ayla addressed this issue by creating a networking system for community members—organizations such as the American Legion, JROTC chapters and Girl Scouts—and cremation services to work

together to distribute and retire American flags more efficiently. Ayla worked with funeral homes to implement a "One Star" program. This program consisted of cremating a retired flag with a deceased veteran. Prior to the cremation, one star is cut from the flag and presented to the veteran's family as a keepsake. Ayla also hosted workshops with younger Girl Scouts to teach them how to properly fold and retire American flags. As a result, Girl Scouts retired more flags during camping trips. Ayla also created a website that contains a flag folding tutorial and contact information for flag drop-off locations. Ayla's project will be sustained by Affinity Cremation and Cremation Center of Tampa Bay, whose personnel will manage the One Star program. Ayla graduated from Durant High School in 2023.



BRONZE AWARD RECIPIENTS



The Girl Scout Bronze Award is the highest award a Girl Scout **Junior** can achieve. Girls earning this award have DISCOVERED issues, CONNECTED with their community, developed leadership skills, and TAKEN ACTION to advocate for their passions. They have each given 20 hours, and most gave many more, towards their award. This award is worked on as a troop. We congratulate them for their dedication and hours of hard work!

Alaina Martinez
Mallory McLaughlin
Alyna Vasilakis
Alysa Tepedino
Ashley Simon
Ashley Tepedino
Morgan Daugherty
Adalynn Errickson
Paige Dixon
Annalyse Shelvin-Mays
Colleen Smith
Alyssa Clough
Riley Heidt
Aarna Mirshra
Alina Edgar
Gabriella Birch
Gabriella Grimaldi
Isabella Grimaldi
Kalette Varvil
Leighton Castine
Madeline Lewis
Scarlett Bedell
Ava Myers
Carmen Rush
Emmalene Benoit
Genevieve Latto
Myka Robinson
Evelyn Allison
Lyla Toler
Isabelle Canamero
Lainee Mercer
Khloe White
Hailee Allman
Raegan Arnett
Ella Bucko
Grace LaBarbera
Mahi Mishra
Saaya Patel
Sienna Polizzi
Alexis Roelse

Jade Thorn
Kaylee Ellis
Larayia Peters
Adrianna Lopez
Anna Yi
Amaris Sanjurjo
Piper Hirota
Amelia Bonanno
Ariel Cynowicz
Sophia Jaramillo
Emily Singletary
Mira Evans
Ava Cooper
Chloe Brand
Aashi Kaur Chauhan
Rujvi Shilotri
Abigail Rodgers
Allyson Weber
Caroline Kossoff
Elena Kossoff
Julieta Tharin
Lyvia Johnston
Makayla Netzel
Mila Wakefield
Ellie Baltra
Christie Ryan
Aya Kabi
Allison Michael
Riley Palmer
Kallie Palombo
Sophia Hassan
Aziza Aouadi
Layal Hussein
Rania Riaz
Khadija Abu Khaled
Hannah Bellairs
Zoe Abels
Violet Cancelliere
Jillian Moore
Sophie McLachlan

Kyra Kelly
Alissa Menze
Ava Theofanous
Lila Zeigler
Quinn O'Connor
Violet Bees
Leilani Fisher
Audrina Nye
Lily Johnson
Lexus Servati
Anna-mae Brophy
Soraya Freeman
Lara Belcastro
Lillian Brummer
Emma Kiely
Chloe Mudge
Teagan Mundy
Rylee Vilela
Lydia Nishwitz
Alaina Medina
Alice Alvarez
Tatiana Lincoln
Sophia Scholl
Elizabeth Oxley
Sophie Devolder
Vivian Karlson
Gwyn Vinson
Abby Gillespie
Isabel Bvrenik
Jackie Weed
Abigail Mullins
Braelyn Frease
Gracie Ratliff
Jolyn Rodriguez
Natalie Torres
Quarje Moore
Roisin Wilson
Sarah Feld
Lacey Horton
Isabelle Lucas

Emilee Webb
Savanna Waite
Annabelle Stamps
Audrey Bates
Julianne Hamm
Evelyn Washer
Rose Burkhardt
Samantha Early
Lauryn Kandarappallil
Brynn Osterberger
Alexis Proulx
Adelyn Rivera
Adelaina Strom
Brielle Iwanicki
Brooklyn Armstrong
Delia Pipia
Kathryn Unterholzner
Kinsley Greenheck
Kira Talati
Olivia Maloney

List reflects girls who completed their projects between April 1, 2022- March 31, 2023

SILVER AWARD RECIPIENTS



The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest award a Girl Scout **Cadette** can achieve. Girls earning this award have DISCOVERED issues, CONNECTED with their community, DEVELOPED leadership skills, and TAKEN ACTION to advocate for their passions. They have each given 50 hours, and most gave many more, towards their award. We congratulate the girls below for their dedication and hours of hard work!

Belle Ellerbee
Julianna Pauley
Sydney Dahlquist
Isabella Blewitt
Tania Mulay
Cata Hensley
Hailee McFadden
Vayda Jetton
Andrea Agront
Isabella Untied Leonard
Ella Madison
Isabel Reyes Santiago
Emma Pomaro
Gabriella Noyes
Angelina Anderson
Sophia Maust
Meera Jamro
Lauryn Oneal
Sarah Scharder
Lianna Hill
Brianna Maguire
Lindsey Grauer
Allison Ley
Jaeci Burney
Aysia Horton
Ysabella Nunez
Jaina Grable
Fatima Abu Khaled
Safiya Sherif
Khadeeja Ahmad
Josephine Clark
Heidi Connor
Julianna Myers
Natalie Barcelo
Lindsay Paulson
Mackenzie Miller
Ava Newton
Lucy Kossoff
Natalie Kossoff
Zaria McKinney
Katelynn Alberico
Alexa Dickey
Alexandra Lyons

Celia Bentil
Alexandria Mehr
Riley Pancholy
Avery Pento
Elise Rowland
Chloe Waite
Bella Arad
Emma Williams
Isabel McIrvin
Rebecca Brabant
Jollysa Velasquez-Lopez
Siena Leadbetter
Leah Wood
Isabela Stitt
Jenna Orłowski
Shannon Cliff
Ayla Ghafouri
Janelle Brzezeinski
Hope Brillhart
Anna Lucas
Elli Bland
Lilli Posey
Kai Connors
Kethryn Lynch
Gabrielle Clohessy
Allyson Conner
Margaret Welch
Gabriella Eads
Christina Hills
Piper Weingart
Victoria Hills
Shea Griffith
Reese McClellan
Marlow Griffin
Payton Crandall
Collen Johansen
Norah Motta
Zoie Miller
Ollie Kittendorf
Addison Leach
Alyssa Youmans
Makayla Morgan
Suniana Patel

Athena Zawalich
Jaidyn Freyn-Angel
Sophia Walker
Delaney Jarrell
Ramiyah Gilliam
Aiyanna Lindsey
Brianna Davidson
Lilliana Anthony
Bailey Depew
Isabella Cantin
Layla Martinez
Jayda Martinez
Caileigh Doody
Maribel Vasquez
Madden Creamer
Emily Blair
Lucy Wilson
Caitlin McNabb
Alesya Enyart
Aubrianna Fulford
Delaney Carpenter
Ashlyn Grisham
Peyton Stamps

*List reflects girls
who completed their
projects between
April 1, 2022- March 31, 2023*

GIRL SCOUTS OF WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Lavinia "Vinnie" Vaughn

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HIGH AWARD COMMITTEES

Gold Award Commitee

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Jennifer Telfare
Nerissa Casanova
Christa Vail
Sharron Bauer

Holly Conner
Shannon Boyer
Manar Sarsour
Jane Morris
Alison Wernicke

Carrie Alexander
Diejonina Abbott
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Vickie Abbott

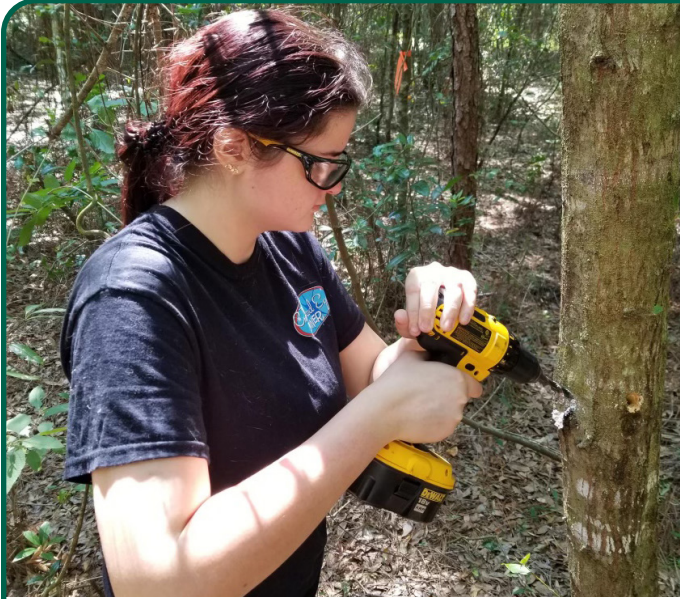
Silver and Bronze Award Commitee

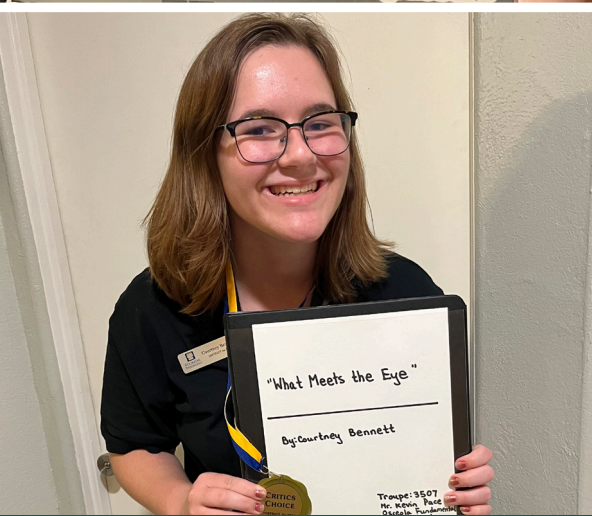
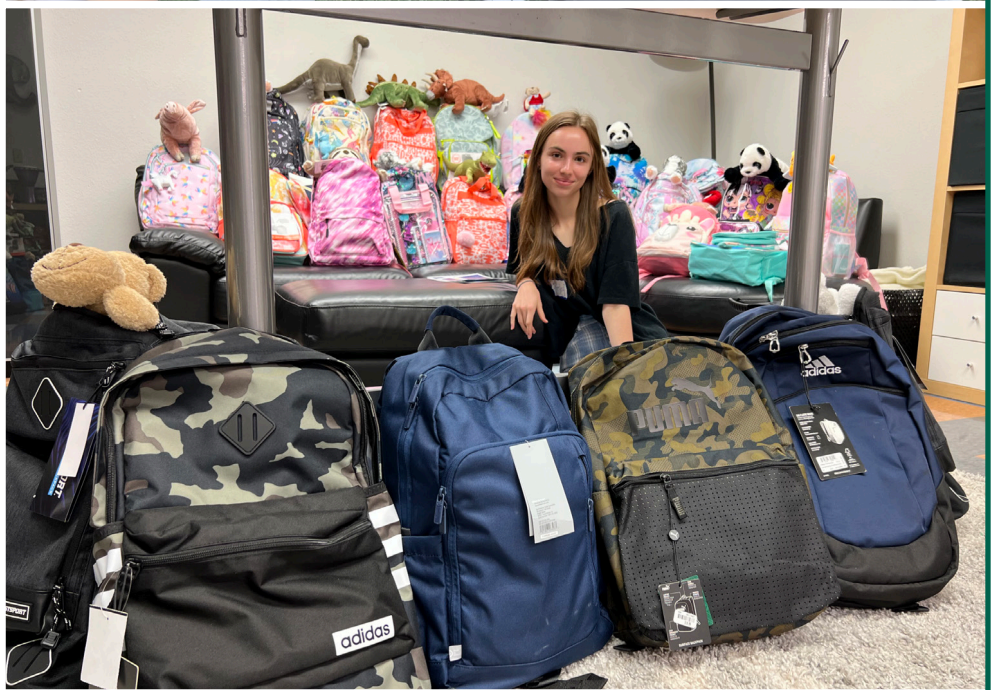
Jen Boswell
Andrea Weaver

Marjorie Crosbie
Tiffany Eaton

Debbie Galbraith
Sarah Mundy

GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS IN ACTION





GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS IN ACTION





Become a Lifetime Member today!

When you become a lifetime member, we'll keep you updated on what's new, continue to inspire you with stories of girls who are making the world a better place, and share opportunities for you to speak up for girls.

Simply register at [girlscouts.org/gradltm](https://www.girlscouts.org/gradltm)



Congratulations, Amanda!



Another well-deserved addition to your many successes. We are so proud of you!

Love,
Mom & Dad



Congratulations, Ayla!

Ayla Star,
from Daisies to Ambassadors,
you've enjoyed 13 years of fun,
friendship and family.

You are the only Girl Scout
from your troop to earn your
Gold Award.

We're so proud of you!

Shaw and Madison,

Girl Scout buddies
since third grade!
Congrats on achieving
the Gold Award!

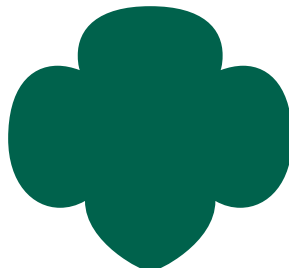
Tear it up at UCF ladies!

Love you both,
Tim, Kellie and
Mattie Bouley



Congratulations,
Emma!

*“Every adversity, every
failure, every heartache
carries with it the seed of an
equal or greater benefit.”
Napoleon Hill*



Emma, hard work and
perseverance are your
middle names.

Love you!
Mom and Dad

Congratulations Emily on creating Trinity's Serenity!



You are making a difference in the world.

Much love and pride,
Mom and Dad

Congratulations, Kathleen!



Great job completing a difficult Girl Scout Gold Award project and TV interview.

Love always,
Dad, Mom & Peter

You have a generous, caring heart and always use your time and talents in positive, impactful ways.

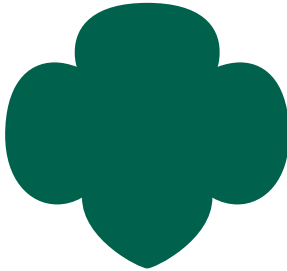
We are so proud of you for earning your Gold Award!

Love,
Mom & Dad



Congratulations, Presley!





Congratulations, Riley!

I'm so very proud of you. You've worked hard the past 12 years in Girl Scouts and school to achieve what you have. Go show them how incredible you are at Nova Southeastern! Love you lots!



Congratulations, Amanda, Emma, Nitya, Presley and Saylor!

Your hard work and dedication are an inspiration to all the girls in Sunny Palms! Best of luck in all your future endeavors!





Congratulations, Yasmine!



Your dedication to Girl Scouts and pride of being a lifetime Girl Scout always inspired your troop and leaders.

Troop 806 and the Coacoochee Service Unit are so proud of you!



You're God's servant!
You're philanthropic!
You're enterprising!
You're dedicated!
You're compassionate!
You're kind!
You're hardworking!
You're empathetic!
You're passionate!
You're humble!
You're a leader!
You're exemplary!
You're changing lives!
You're creating hope!
You're amazing!



Congratulations, Isha!





Congratulations, Skylar!

The Gold Award is the highest achievement within Girl Scouts that only 5.4% achieve.

We are so proud of your 13 years of commitment and cookie sales.

We love you!
Mom, Dad & Hunter

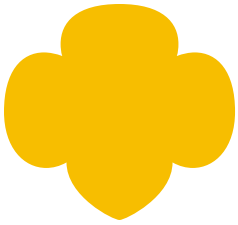


Congratulations on becoming a Gold Award Girl Scout!

You have truly distinguished yourself—earning the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting. You join other inspiring leaders who are making a sustainable difference in their communities and beyond. We are deeply proud of your outstanding accomplishment and have the highest confidence in your continued success.

Thank you for being a changing the world,
Girl Scouts of West Central Florida Team





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.

Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong,
and responsible for what I say and do,

and to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place,
and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

Gold Proclamation



GO within,

See yourself as pure gold, free to shine and way too good to play small.

GO deeper,

Into problems and places where help is needed, with the strength to spark worldwide change.

GO ALL OUT,

As a golden-gifted gi-normous force of nature owning your power to lead.

Imagine what will happen if we show a girl the heights of achievement,

Then promise to get her there.

Her inner light will take on an incredible new hue.

She'll see so many paths she can take,

She'll join hands with girls around the globe—

Learning, leading, lifting, climbing, shining, shaping the future,

They'll dream anew, in color. And together, they will go boldly forward.

We're inviting you to participate in the power of a billion bright lights.

A world ignited. When every girl believes that she can ***GO GOLD***.

So how do we get her there? We ALL GO gold.

We GO to her side with the encouragement she needs.

We GO public with her incredible story.

We get everyone talking about what Gold Award means so when girls seek out community support, it's there.

And for every Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadet, Senior and Ambassador we put Gold firmly on their radar, and in their hearts.

We reignite the passion of Gold Alumnae, we get the entire community on the same glorious page with a clear-cut mission and a powerful rallying cry—a cry that will be heard, and felt, across this nation.

Everyone, together, **LET'S ... GO GOLD!**

Make New Friends

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

A circle is round, it has no end.
That's how long, I will be your friend.

A fire burns bright, it warms the heart.
We've been friends, from the very start.

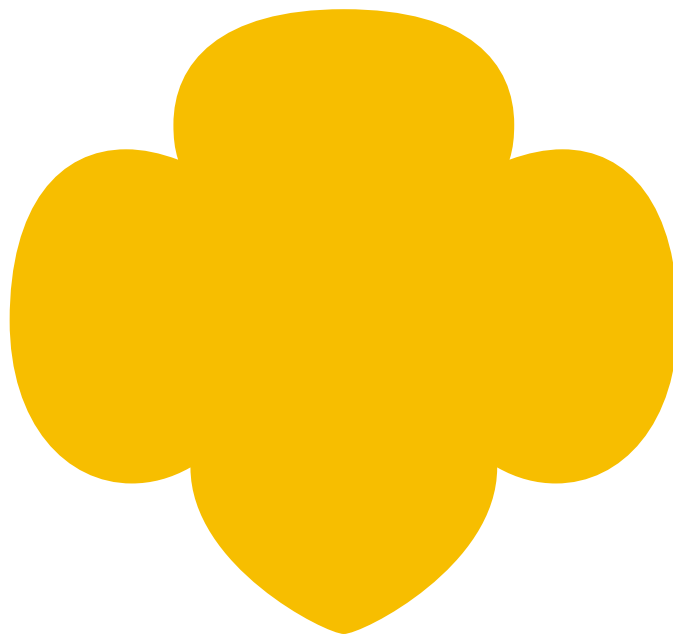
You have one hand, I have the other.
Put them together, we have each other.

Silver is precious, gold is too.
I am precious, and so are you.

You help me and I'll help you
and together we will see it through.

The sky is blue. The Earth is green.
I can help to keep it clean.

Across the land, Across the sea.
Friends forever we will always be.



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