



HIGHEST AWARDS YEARBOOK

Recognizing Orange County 2017 Highest Awards Girl Scouts:
Bronze Award Girl Scouts, Silver Award Girl Scouts, and Gold Award Girl Scouts

*Earned between
October 2016 - September 2017*





The Girl Scout Gold Award

Since 1916, Girl Scouts have been making meaningful, sustainable changes in their communities and around the world by earning the Highest Award in Girl Scouting. Originally called the Golden Eagle of Merit and later, the Golden Eaglet, Curved Bar, First Class, and now the Girl Scout Gold Award, this esteemed accolade is a symbol of excellence, leadership, and ingenuity and a testament to what a girl can achieve.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award a Girl Scout may earn in Girl Scouting; it recognizes girls in grades 9-12 who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through sustainable and measurable “Take Action” projects. A Girl Scout who chooses to “go gold” contributes to the world in purposeful and meaningful ways, learns how to identify problems, and creates long-term solutions and lasting change. As she designs, plans, implements, and evaluates her project, teaming up with others to take action in the community, she develops leadership, and becomes recognized as a community problem solver. Girl Scouts who earn the Gold Award distinguish themselves in the college admissions process, earn scholarships from a growing number of colleges and universities across the country, and immediately rise one rank in any branch of the U.S. military.

Over the years, the Girl Scout Gold Award has inspired thousands of Orange County Girl Scouts to find greatness within themselves and to create sustainable solutions to issues they deeply care about. This year, **111** OC girls earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, placing Orange County above the national average. The outstanding young women featured in this yearbook have demonstrated their courage, confidence, and character by earning the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award that can be achieved in Girl Scouts. These young women join the ranks of amazing women who have made a difference locally and globally. Girl Scouts of Orange County salutes these dedicated and determined young women for making the world a better place through their fulfillment of the requirements for the Girl Scout Gold Award.



2016-2017 Girl Scout Gold Award Recipients at the annual Girl Scouts of Orange County Recognition Event held at the Disneyland Hotel in June 2017: *(back row; left to right)* Sophie Roberts, Ritu Sidgal, Abigail Tac, Dharaa Upadhyaya, Megan Hall, Marina Graham, Isabela Kimmel, Megan Smith, Kelly Castleman, Sharleen Loh *(third row; left to right)* Gabriella Hernandez, Rebecca Dean, Hannah Takasuka, Kari Yamamoto, Renee Reed, Claire O'Connor, Julianne Wilde, Kimberly Ramirez, Alice Chen, Rachel Baroway, Mary Blake *(second row; left to right)* Noëlle Fischer, Sarah Andreshak, Victoria Shute, Rebecca Kasputis, Jenika Kolacz, Ashley McMahan, Erika Dunning, Sarah Politiski, Taline Ratanjee, Katie Yau, Allyson Yamasaki, Madhulika Shastry *(front row, left to right)* Paige Bagne, Cassandra Amirghahari, Kara Gilbert, Hannah Hall, Laura Niedringhaus, Marianna Robles-Godinez

Content in this yearbook is aggregated from Silver Award Girl Scout and Gold Award Girl Scout profiles submitted to GSOC.



Girl Scouts of Orange County 2017 Gold Award Girl Scouts

Sinclair Adams
Lea Alcantara
Cassandra Amirghahari
Emily Anastos
Jayme Anderson
Paige Bagne
Rachel Baroway
Chassidy Bell
Natalie Bergler
Lauren Best
Mary Blake
Cindy Cao
Pauline Dang
Rebecca Dean
Priya Desai
Becky Dinh
Catherine Doan
Sarah Downey
Brianna Erbach
Carly Feckley
Flores
Emily Gancy
Emily Garreton
Alexandra Geltman
Josilyn Grant
Hannah Hall
Megan Hall
Megan Haynes
Sarah Heckel
Victoria Heyman
Alexandria Hinmon
Kelly Ho
Diana Hughes
Gillian Ippoliti
Ainsley Johnstone
Danielle Joly
Brianna Katsuda
Yena Kim

Jenika Kolacz
Emma Kremer
Nicole Larinde
Susan Le
Jordan Lee
Phoebe Levan
Fiona Lichodziejewski
Phoebe Logier
Sharleen Loh
Shirley Lu
Frances Ly
Haley Mai
Jordyn Margolis
Olivia Massick
Nikki Minagar
Sydney Montgomery
Megan Musquiz
Tiffany Nakamura
Amy Nguyen
Britney Nguyen
Elaine Nguyen
Emily Nguyen
Emily Nguyen
Jasmine Nguyen
Kristy Nguyen
Lillian Nguyen
Maylinh Nguyen
Rosa Nguyen
Tracy Nguyen
Vicky Nguyen
Lesley Osorio
Alexandria Owens
Corinne Padar
Emily Pearce
Maegan Perez
Daphne Pham
Evelyn Pham
Samantha Place

Sarah Politiski
Emily Pufahl
Julia Qualls
Shalini Rao
Taline Ratanjee
Abigail Redman
Juliana Resong
Amanda Roark
Sophie Roberts
Katie Robinson
Amelia Rumsey
Kristi Ryono
Jessica Sakamoto
Jessica Sardina
Maaryah Sattar
Marjorie Schlegel
Aparna Sharma
Madhulika Shastry
Tessa Shimizu
Victoria Shute
Ritu Sidgal
Rachel Soltesz
Jane Sommers
Abigail Tac
Kasey Tarnow
Emily Tran
Dharaa Upadhyaya
Julianne Wilde
Mikayla Winfery
Edwina Xiong
Allyson Yamasaki
Kayla Yasuda
Katie Yau
Katherine Zerbst
Michelle Zernick

*2016-2017 Girl Scout
membership year



Water Safety Short Instructional Film

Public Safety: Water Safety

Partnered with: American Red Cross

Sinclair Adams

Northeast Region: Santiago Creek Service Unit, Troop 657

Girl Scout Ambassador, Orange County School of the Arts

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of Nevada Las Vegas (English/Film)/Screenwriter

Because many families in Southern California spend the warm seasons swimming in pools and at the beach, Sinclair wanted to create a short film that teaches children how to stay safe in the water. Sinclair earned her lifeguard certification and researched water safety issues, so she made a list of safety tips using what she learned. Next she built a script around these safety tips, then gathered a crew of actors and editors. Once the video was finished, Sinclair presented her project to several groups of children, giving them lifelong tips to use when around water. Video was shared internationally.

"This leadership project taught me two different facets of leadership: how to communicate with a team and how to be a self-starter. As the leader of a team, I had to communicate with my crew clearly so they understood my vision. While searching for crew members and scheduling presentations, I had to put myself out of my comfort zone by making calls and advertising myself and my ideas in pursuit of my goals."



Stress Management for Self Help

Health: Mental Health

Partnered with: Capistrano Unified School District

Lea Alcantara

South Coast Region: Niguel Coast Service Unit, Troop 1026

Girl Scout Ambassador, San Juan Hills High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Mechanical Engineering

After finding skills to manage her own stress, Lea was inspired to share her experience so that others could too. She created a website to help people identify and address their specific factors for stress. At two information sessions for both parents and students of her community, Lea gave her website along with other coping tools to aid people in managing their stress. The awareness of such aid will continue with future seminars and her website, which will be sustained by her club at her high school.

"Working with administrators and school officials to develop and execute seminars, I developed useful leadership, communication, and public speaking skills. Above all though, I found that when I feel passionate about something, the actions I take can make a difference for my community and the world around me. Completing my Gold Award made me realize how I can hone in on my interest of helping others to better serve the world."



H.E.A.R.T.

Healthy Relationships: Domestic Violence

Partnered with: Laura's House

Cassandra Amirghahari

South County Region: Lake Forest Service Unit, Troop 939

Girl Scout Ambassador, El Toro High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Orange Coast College/Emergency Room Nurse

Cassandra ran a "Safe Relationships" week.

"The biggest lesson I learned from my whole experience was how to ask for help. I've always been the type of person that does everything myself because I don't feel like I'm the best at communicating what I want- it's always in my head but I can never say it properly. With my Gold Award project, I had to be really good at communicating with my team in order for things to go smoothly throughout the week."



International Student Start Up

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Cultural Awareness

Partnered with: The Principia Upper School

Emily Anastos

Central Region: Newport Harbor Service Unit, Troop 871 Pegasus

Girl Scout Ambassador, The Principia Upper School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Business

After learning from international friends about their difficulties acclimating to the US, Emily designed and launched a mentorship program for new international students at her boarding school. She assigned dorm leaders as mentors and educated them about culture shock, difficulties their mentees might face, and how to be helpful. Her project fostered relationships between students from 13 different countries and the US to create a support system for international students. Emily ensured the project would be sustainable by gaining the commitment of dorm leaders and providing them with binders with her research, steps, and timeline to implement the program.

"To uphold my project purpose, I had to focus on the needs of others. My goal was to create an environment for new international students to feel safe and loved. I learned the importance of communication, gaining approvals, coordinating different agendas, and listening to others. This project was an opportunity to foster connections and raise awareness among students from 13 different countries; that has inspired me to continue looking for new ways to serve others."



Spreading Theatre

Disability: Disability and Special Needs Issues

Partnered with: Aliso Niguel High School

Jayme Anderson

South Coast Region: Aliso Viejo Service Unit, Troop 734

Girl Scout Ambassador, Aliso Niguel High School

This project was inspired by Jayme's special needs brother, and she wanted to create a more diverse welcoming environment for everyone at Aliso Niguel High School. Overall she saw the increase in participation of special needs students in the school's mainstream activities. Her project used ANHS theatre students to carry out these games and they will continue to do so throughout the years. The students themselves can also encourage others to socialize and boost confidence.

"I learned to be a leader in a group of people whose backgrounds, abilities and skills are all different from another's. I learned to take control of situations I may encounter in any field I go into. I learned that I prefer to lead a group than to sit and watch, and handle any conflicts that may arise."



Pollution Preventers

Environment and Sustainability: Pollution

Partnered with: Messiah Lutheran Church, LOT318, Messiah Preschool, Homework House

Paige Bagne

Northeast Region: Orange Villa Service Unit, Troop 1386

Girl Scout Ambassador, El Toro High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: California Lutheran University/Biologist

Paige met with experts and compiled a unique and interactive lesson plan about ocean pollution. She was called into action from her passion of ocean ecosystems and her love for working with kids. She wanted to inspire our next generation to keep the oceans clean for years to come. Traveling to four organizations, Paige led groups of preschool and elementary aged kids through activities to educate about ocean pollution. One of the activities included a Jeopardy-style game they played to test the kids' knowledge. The program tools were left with each organization so it could be taught again next year.

"I was definitely pushed beyond my comfort zone in terms of leadership and being extroverted. Yet, I knew I had a passion for kids, I knew I wanted to advocate for the oceans and this project carried those passions further. All in all, I learned that I can be in charge and be a leader and I learned a lot about patience and organization."



Awareness for Acceptance

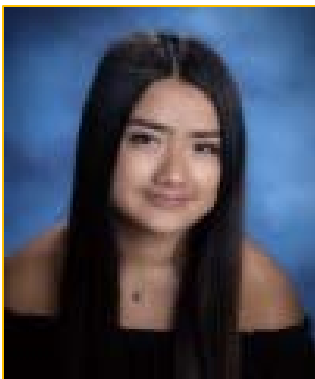
*Education/Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Children's Issues/Historic Preservation
Partnered with: Hadassah*

Rachel Baroway

Central Coast Region: Huntington Harbor Service Unit, Troop 742
Girl Scout Ambassador, Marina High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: California State University, San Marcos (Psychology)/
Neuroscience Psychologist

Rachel chose to create a living history video featuring Holocaust survivors to present to the 10th graders in hopes to increase tolerance of all religions on campus. The connection to a global issue is the intolerance of other religions and the denial that the Holocaust actually happened. The measurable impact was shown through the pre and post questions and the different feel on campus after the video was shown. The project will be continued to be played every year with the help of the teachers at the local schools.

"As I worked on my project I learned that if I put my mind to something, I can do anything. Some skills I obtained through my project were the ability to talk to adults more efficiently and to separate work for play when it came to my team. By doing this I was able to be a leader and get my project done."



Homework Helpers

*Education/Children's Issues: Mentoring
Partnered with: YMCA Los Altos*

Chassidy Bell

Central Region: West Garden Service Unit, Troop 997 Lien Doan Hoa Lu
Girl Scout Ambassador, Marina High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising/Fashion
Merchandising

Chassidy established a tutoring program to help kids between the ages of kindergarten up to middle school with their homework and studies. She developed a detailed plan including a timeline & a budget as well as recruited volunteers to assist her. She approached YMCA Los Altos to set up her program through their kid-friendly organization. Chassidy and her team aided kids with their work on a weekly basis and motivated them to be successful in their studies. She inspired others to take action in their communities through her global community service club.

"This project made me realize that this was only the beginning of my journey as a leader. I've definitely learned a lot of skills but I still have more to learn and room to grow. The project has given me a wave of confidence and I feel like being a good leader is all about having trust in yourself. With that, I want to continue to inspire others to take action."



Walk 4 Change

*Health: Diseases
Partnered with: Alzheimer's Association and Michael J. Fox Foundation*

Natalie Bergler

South Coast Region: North Irvine Service Unit, Troop 1214
Girl Scout Ambassador, Northwood High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Loyola Marymount University/ Elementary School Teacher

Natalie's goal was to spread awareness for Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and Breast Cancer after her grandmother passed away from Parkinson's in 2014. Through the use of the "Charity Miles" app, stations with statistic cards, interactive games and prizes at her "Walk4Change," Natalie taught her fellow high school students about several diseases, side effects, and how to prevent them. Nearly 100 students came to the event, and since the event, over 1,500 miles have been tracked for charity through the "Charity Miles" app. Her project will be sustained at the annual Timberwolf 5K and athletic teams at Northwood High School.

"The Gold Award process has helped me grow as a more mature leader, communicate with global organizations, and realize I can do any project, big or small, if I have a supportive team and passion. I hope that my project has educated and inspired others to make a difference too."



Special Skills for Special Needs

*Disability: Disability and Special Needs Issues
Partnered with: Sonora High School/Best Buds*

Lauren Best

Northwest Region: Fullerton/La Habra Service Unit, Troop 933
Girl Scout Ambassador, Sonora High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Marketing

Lauren collaborated with special needs teachers to develop a curriculum to teach important social skills to special needs students. She created her project after noticing the social isolation of special needs students in her school and nationwide. She trained 100 student mentors to work with 50 special needs students, resulting in new friendships and increased understanding among the students. At the end of the year, 50 special needs students from a local high school were invited to a carnival themed dance providing an opportunity to participate in a traditional high school activity while implementing their newly acquired social skills.

"Working with the students and teachers to decrease social isolation among special needs students, I discovered my passion for helping others discover their voice. I developed important leadership skills as I trained the student mentors and met with school and district administration to share my vision and garner support for my project. Most of all, I have learned that I can create lasting change in my community."



Dating Violence

*Healthy Relationships: Domestic Violence
Partnered with: Rosary Academy*

Mary Blake

Northeast Region: Yorba Linda East Service Unit, Troop 1153
Girl Scout Ambassador, Rosary Academy
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Riverside

Mary chose to address this issue because it is a significant problem among her peers and she knows people who have been affected by domestic violence. She knows how detrimental the effects are and she wants her peers to recognize the problem. The target audience high school students. The students who the video is presented to take the information with them off to college and throughout the rest of their lives. The impact is measured through quizzes and worksheets that go along with the presentation. It is continued beyond Mary's involvement through the junior religion teacher at Rosary Academy.

"I worked with my peers to teach my peers about something that can happen to anyone no matter what background they come from. I learned how to effectively lead and teach my peers without being afraid that they will think I am being bossy. I have learned that I have the ability to lead and that teaching is something I am passionate about."



Project: Serve the Community

*Health: Fitness
Partnered with: TNS Children's Choir*

Cindy Cao

Central Coast Region: HB Pierside Service Unit, Troop 963
Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Irvine

Cindy combined her love of tennis with her passion for service to address poor eating and exercising habits among low-income children. To find instructors for the camp, she enlisted the help of professional players and her school's tennis team. She also held a fundraiser and tennis racket drive to ensure that each participant was given their own rackets to keep and use in their futures. There were 28 participants on the first day and 36 the second, from 5 to 16 years old. The project has been adopted by CLBTSN, a nonprofit singing organization that'll be executing the camp annually.

"Seeing the excitement these kids got from the simple action of hitting a ball over the net made me realize that I have so much in my own life that I should be grateful for. Earning my Gold Award developed my leadership skills and taught me that anyone is capable of making a difference as long as they have a vision, a plan, and a passion."



Webber Elementary Garden Planning

*Health/Environment and Sustainability: Nutrition/Farming
Partnered with: Webber Elementary School*

Pauline Dang

Central Region: Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 1256
Girl Scout Ambassador, Marina High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Los Angeles

Pauline wanted to change how kids in her community lacked the opportunity to grow and prepare their own foods, and that hinders their ability to form healthy eating habits. She worked with Webber Elementary School's student council to plan and implement a gardening system that could be carried on for many more years. She and her team developed a timeline and reached out for help from local organizations like PRIDE as well as the school's teachers. After harvesting the crops at the end of the year, she celebrated by hosting a harvest fair at the school.

"Working with the kids from the student council taught me how to manage a group of individuals who are just as passionate as I am and inspired me to keep working on issues I care about. It was tough, but working on Gold made me see the potential I have in building a team, gathering resources, and executing a plan to fulfill my vision."



Share a Smile Campaign

*Healthy Relationships: Bullying
Partnered with: Stone Creek Elementary School*

Rebecca Dean

South Coast Region: South Irvine Service Unit, Girl Scout Independent
Girl Scout Ambassador, Woodbridge High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Irvine Valley College (Early Childhood Development)

Becca created her Share a Smile Campaign to combat bullying in schools and replace it with a message of kindness. Her project would reach a global change by taking part in World Kindness Day. Classrooms from second to sixth grade took part in Becca's Kindness Campaign and produced astounding results. Each grade level that watched the video eliminated all referrals for bullying. The teachers of Stone Creek Elementary School have already agreed to continue playing Becca's video for their classes each year so that it may continue changing the school's atmosphere for the better.

"As I worked alongside the teachers of Stone Creek, I learned how to build a team and how to be a leader. Throughout my journey of creating this project I have discovered how much I enjoy working with kids in order to impact their lives for the better. I have always known that I wanted to become a teacher but now I am even more certain that that is what I want to do."



STEM jr.

*STEM/Education: Science, Engineering, Math, Career Training
Partnered with: Nicolas Junior High School Honor Society/Fullerton School District*

Priya Desai

Northwest Region: Fullerton/La Habra Service Unit, Girl Scout Independent
Girl Scout Ambassador, Sunny Hills High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Lawyer

Priya created workshops with activities such as paper airplanes, puzzle-making, and aluminum boats to teach STEM in a creative way, and then hosted workshops in Vadodara, India and Fullerton School District elementary schools to make STEM more inclusive to women, people of color, and lower-income students, who often feel unrepresented in STEM. By facilitating over ten workshops where junior high students taught younger kids, she empowered kids to see their true capabilities as leaders in STEM. Within Nicolas Junior High's Honor Society, Priya has implemented a 2-hour STEM-related service hour requirement, to encourage students to further explore STEM.

"Connecting with students from a variety of backgrounds, and uniting them towards a single goal, I was inspired by how much change can be created by those who are passionate about issues. Showing people who often feel isolated from STEM that they, too, have the potential to succeed was extremely gratifying. Earning my Gold Award showed me that being responsible and dependable encourages people to believe in you, and improves your performance as a leader."



Helping Special Ed Kids with Self-Esteem

Disability/Health: Disability and Special Needs Issues/Self-Esteem

Partnered with: Temecula Unified High School District and LA Nails

Becky Dinh

Central Coast Region: HB Pierside Service Unit, Troop 1955 Lien Doan Dao Tan Binh Quang Trung Ngoc Hoi Girl Scout Ambassador, Westminster High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, San Diego/ Supreme Court Judge

It's important to understand that students with special needs are struggling with a condition out of their control. Becky has come to realize that special education kids in high schools are often excluded during school events. She addressed her project to these kids and overall, she hopes that she has made an impact on others by helping people become more aware that special education kids should be included more in school events. In order to promote confidence and involvement, Becky connected salons and TVUHSD to give Special Education kids makeovers to encourage them to attend a prom made for teens with disabilities. Becky hopes that the kids will benefit from this project by feeling involved and more confident in themselves from going to events such as prom and graduation.

"As I worked with counselors and parents to address the issue of lack of involvement in special education kids, I've come to realize that communication and patience is important in inspiring others to get motivated and involved. Personally, I feel that my leadership skills will grow in the future because this project had helped me realized that not only do I want to advocate for myself, but I want to advocate for others."



Second Chance for a Family

Healthy Relationships: Domestic Violence

Partnered with: Parent in Partnership (PIP)/Department of Children and Family Services

Catherine Doan

Central Coast Region: HB Pierside Service Unit, Troop 1955

Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: California State University, Long Beach/Teacher

Catherine linked several businesses companies to the PIP Closet by having them hold clothing drives and donate the collected items to their organization. These items include professional attire that one would need for a job interview or court hearing. Since the members of the PIP organization cannot afford these clothing items, my project provides it for them. To make the project sustainable, she had the business companies agree to hold the clothing drives on a regular basis within their own companies beyond her involvement. She also created a website in order for PIP to gain more exposure.

"Throughout the process of working on my GA project, I have acquired many skills. Among those were time management skills that I gained by constantly having to meet deadlines and keeping up at school. I also acquired communication skills by keeping my troop group volunteer and project advisor up to date about the progress of my project. Earning my Gold Award showed that I am capable of identifying community issues such as Family Crisis."



Ramifications of Underage Drinking and Driving

Health/Public Safety: Drug Abuse

Partnered with: Every 15 Minutes

Sarah Downey

Northeast Region: Orange Villa Service Unit, Troop 1697

Girl Scout Ambassador, Canyon High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Chapman University (Strategic and Corporate Communications/Leadership)/Spokesperson for a major company

Sarah addressed underage drinking and driving. She researched the statistics which showed more than 4,300 deaths had been related to underage drinking every year (cdc.gov). Understanding kids don't realize the hurt and devastation, both emotionally and financially, they put their parents, friends, and family through if they choose to drink and drive. She opted to get involved in the crusade against drunk driving. The target audience was the junior and senior class at canyon high school. Sarah and her team utilized the nationally recognized program, Every 15 Minutes. Canyon will continue to build upon the Every 15 Minutes program.

"As a result of completing this project, I feel better equipped to handle a big project from start to finish no matter the size. I learned how to manage my time well, while also efficiently and effectively communicate ideas thoroughly with people of all ages. Because of this, I've gained confidence in knowing I can go out into the world and make a difference wherever I see fit."



Intake of Love

Animals: Animal Rights

Partnered with: OC Animal Care

Brianna Erbach

Northeast Region: Yorba Linda East Service Unit, Troop 1022

Girl Scout Ambassador, Yorba Linda High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Los Angeles/Advertising Firm

Bri created her flier, intake of love, to spread awareness about how the intake rates of shelters are rising significantly each year. Bri and her team distributed these fliers all over Orange County, Riverside County, and Los Angeles County. For a month, Bri and her team advertised and distributed these fliers all over the communities to share her knowledge and research she had done. After a month, the team reflected back on the project to see how successful they were.

"As I worked on finishing my project, Intake of Love, I realized how important it is to have a team. There is no way I could've been this successful on my own, and I am very thankful for all of the hard work everyone put in. I learned how to lead my team in the most beneficial way possible in order to be successful."



Precious Lamb Renovation

Children's Issues/Poverty: Homelessness

Partnered with: Precious Lamb Preschool

Carly Feckley

Central Coast Region: Seal Beach Service Unit, Girl Scout Independent

Girl Scout Ambassador, Los Alamitos High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of San Francisco (Nursing)/Nurse

Carly wanted to make a difference on a local community; as a result, she built portable vegetable gardens, refurbished classroom bulletin boards, and constructed a school bench all for a nonprofit preschool called Precious Lamb. This preschool targets homeless children who do not have the financial resources to live a fulfilling lifestyle. As a result of her project, more homeless children will be able to enroll in preschool, take in proper nutrition, and receive daily comfort. This sustainability will be reinforced through Precious Lamb's staff who will continue to use the new resources Carly has provided them.

"As I worked with other volunteers, I learned that leadership requires you to reach out for guidance and assistance, which makes you a better leader. Earning my Gold Award strengthened my understanding how my passion for giving back to the community can easily inspire others to do so as well. Overall, this journey has emphasized that even the smallest act of service can make a large impact on another person's life."



The Homework Club

Education/Children's Issues: Mentoring

Partnered with: Breakthrough

Tatiana Flores

South County Region: Ladera Valley Service Unit, Troop 2608

Girl Scout Senior, San Juan Hills High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Saddleback College (Undecided)/Role Model

Tatiana created the Middle school homework club to enable children in her community to have access to tools that they needed in order to strive in their education. In her community, there is an elementary bilingual homework club she helped out in. She wondered where the kids would go to once they left elementary school. She asked previous elementary homework club scholars if they were interested and they were, so she decided to take action. She put donation signs in her community and got a lot of school supplies from neighbors and also had help from a non-profit called breakthrough.

"Not only is education a valuable resource but what is more valuable is helping others see the value in education. My Gold Award allowed me to see myself get involved and take action at my own pace. This helped me feel more confident about myself and what I stand for."



Bonding the Generations through Music

Elderly Issues: Senior Centers

Partnered with: Sunrise Senior Care Center

Emily Gancy

Central Region: Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1015 Aquila

Girl Scout Ambassador, Arnold O. Beckman High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Arizona State University/French Translator

Emily accumulated a group of her fellow musicians at her high school to entertain some senior citizens in her city of Tustin. She was inspired to do this because of her love for music and the elderly influence around her. Being able to perform in front of an older generation and conversing with them brought Emily and her fellow musicians' joy. Hoping to share her experience, Emily is encouraging other high school musicians to perform at senior care facilities and feel the same joy she felt when performing for senior citizens.

"I realized that through this project I could control my social anxiety and be able to lead a group of musicians during practice and the main performance. Earning my Gold Award has painted the picture that I, as one out of a million high school students in the country, could identify community issues and address them with the help of other around me."



H2O Conservation

Environment and Sustainability: Water Conservation

Partnered with: Rancho Santa Margarita Water District

Emily Garretton

South County Region: Mission Viejo Service Unit, Troop 900

Girl Scout Ambassador, Capistrano Valley High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California Riverside (Psychology)

Emily designed teaching lessons and taught at a local elementary school to encourage the students and their families to implement easy water saving tips into their everyday lives. Emily partnered with the Santa Margarita Water District and was given learning materials, resources and guidance. Emily continued to teach and went to special events and fundraisers in the area to share her ideas and information. Emily got in touch with Home Depot and received buckets to be used in her water conservation challenge. Families participated in this activity and made it a part of their lifestyle.

"I realized throughout my Gold Award project that I had to be a leader to my team through communication, patience and enthusiasm. Initially it was hard for me to "take charge" as I am not a very assertive person, but as time went on, I learned that effective leadership is what it takes to get people to listen. I feel that my new found leadership and management skills will help me as I enter college."



Orangewood Mentor Program Open House

Children's Issues: Foster Care

Partnered with: Orangewood Foundation Mentor Program and Fountain Valley High School

Alexandra Geltman

Central Region: Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 24 Rising Stars

Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of Washington/Adoption and Foster Care Therapist

Alexandra selected the issue of limited education about Foster Care and Adoption because she was adopted herself. She created a Mentor Open House with Orangewood Foundation and a lesson plan for her school district, in order to reach her target audience of teens and parents. Considering that Adoption occurs globally, Alexandra knew that educating people would have a world-wide impact. As students began to apply her lesson plan, Alexandra measured that 1,000 students were properly educated about adoption this year, and more beyond her involvement because the teachers have taken on the project.

"As I embarked on my Gold Award Journey, I learned valuable leadership skills. Through working with multiple people, groups, and businesses I acquired communication and organizational skills. I gained confidence in myself and my abilities, because things needed to get done and there was no room for insecurity. However my passion for helping others blossomed through my Gold Award, and clarified that I want my future to revolve around making the world a better place."



Got Books? Go Read!

Education: Literacy

Partnered with: Oak View Elementary School/Oak View Branch Library

Josilyn Grant

Central Region: Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 24 Rising Stars

Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Elementary School Teacher

Josilyn created a reading incentive program to encourage the second language learners at Oak View School to maintain their reading skills over the summer and to help prevent "the summer slide". To do so, she held a book drive to gather books to be given as prizes. Next, she created a reading packet to support summer reading. Additionally, Josilyn held meetings at the local library where she read and made crafts with the students. At the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year, Josilyn held award ceremonies to recognize and celebrate the students that maintained or gained in their reading levels.

"My journey throughout my Gold Award Project has not only helped me develop my leadership skills, but it has also helped me grow into a strong and independent young woman. Working with the students at Oak View School has led me to realize my passion for helping children obtain a successful future. Most importantly, it has taught me that no matter what age and gender you are, you can make a difference in the world!"



Bridging Cultures through Art

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Cultural Awareness

Partnered with: ICNA Relief Southern California

Hannah Hall

Central Region: Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1015 Aquila

Girl Scout Ambassador, Foothill High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Teaching and Social Services

Hannah created an art therapy program called "Bridging Cultures through Art" in which she established a workshop for refugee children through ICNA Relief Southern California to help them explore complex emotions, tell their stories and learn both academic and life skills that would help them in a new home. She developed a 45-page journal that combines art activities, journaling pages, math and English lessons and life skills. These journals, their electronic template, and a library of art kits was adopted by ICNA Relief, SAT-7 and the orphanage Dar El Awlad School in Beirut, Lebanon.

"Working with refugee children has had a lasting impact on me and shaped how I interact with people of different cultures. It has taught me how to be a leader and to work hard for what I believe in and to change attitudes. I learned that I have a love for working with children and a passion for helping people. My Gold Award Project has taught me that through determination and passion, anything is possible."



Monkeying Around with Conservation

STEM: Science

Partnered with: Santa Ana Zoo

Megan Hall

Central Region: Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1015 Aquila

Girl Scout Ambassador, Foothill High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Science Research - Microbiology

Megan has created two 12-page, STEM-centered "Zoo Explorer Journal" for the Santa Ana Zoo for students and teachers to use as they tour the zoo, one grades K-3 and another grades 4-6; teaches conservation, species preservation, anatomy, rainforest, math, and drawing. Megan also crafted 15 custom colored drawings of endangered monkey species to be featured on the zoo's new 50-Monkey Conservation Ferris Wheel, which will be seen by 260,000 visitors annually to educate guests about endangered primates. To test her concepts, Megan led a team of volunteers to hold Conservation Art Booths for children at two zoo summer events.

"This project gave me the opportunity to develop my skills as an artist, biologist, and community leader. I learned how to plan and manage a large-scale art project, requiring months of dedication, communication and coordination with multiple zoo departments and partners. I coordinated zoo events with zoo staff and my volunteer team. Most importantly, I effectively applied my passion for biology to educate the community, confirming my career goal of becoming a scientist."



Mathtastic Summer

STEM/Children's Issues/Education: Math/Mentoring

Partnered with: Lot 318

Megan Haynes

Northeast Region: Placentia Service Unit, Troop 1010

Girl Scout Ambassador, El Dorado High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Earn a BA Degree and a Master's Degree

Megan created awareness for a non-profit in need of volunteers. She facilitated discussion at her high school and with her peers about how they can help and serve in the community. To tackle this project she had to coordinate a multiple scheduling conflicts, improve her phone presence and be available and ready for any volunteer questions. To earn the Gold Award Megan devolved a project plan, worked closely with her advisor Kim Kolacz and talked to many administration of the PYLUSD school district Megan got all the volunteers she needed and together they improved the summer for Love income kids.

"As I worked alongside my friends and peers, I was so impressed by the care they gave to the young kids. Earning this Award gave me an opportunity to remember the wonderful parts of my community and how with my help I can inspire others to get involved as well."



Zombie Survival Camp

Children's Issues/Sports: Mentoring/Underprivileged Kids

Partnered with: City of Anaheim, Oak Canyon Nature Center

Sarah Heckel

Northeast Region: Yorba Linda East Service Unit, Troop 1022

Girl Scout Ambassador, Yorba Linda High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Doctor

Sarah created and conducted Zombie Survival Camp, a program designed for middle school youth to learn leadership, outdoor skills, archery and more. To accomplish the project, she partnered with Oak Canyon Nature Center staff to plan activities, prepare publicity, and order supplies. Sarah led activities during the Day Camp and a one-day program for at-risk youth was also held providing a leadership activity, archery, hike and nature presentation. The City of Anaheim is offering additional weeks of the program this summer due to its popularity!

"As I led activities at my Zombie Survival Camp, I was able to interact with youth and see first-hand the positive impact of the program. The at-risk participants really enjoyed the activities and told me it was the best outing they had ever attended. I learned that teamwork is essential for a successful project and the Oak Canyon Nature Center was a great partner."



Building Unity through Leadership

Children's Issues: Mentoring

Partnered with: Orange Lutheran High School and St. Paul's Middle School Student Leadership

Victoria Heyman

Northeast Region: Yorba Linda West Service Unit, Troop 1570

Girl Scout Ambassador, Orange Lutheran High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Grand Canyon University/Educator/Pastor

Victoria met with the Student Leadership advisor at St. Paul's middle school and sold her on the idea of adding a Unity Committee to her leadership program. Victoria then met with the student leadership team and help them organize the new committee. Working closely with the middle school leaders, Victoria helped plan and execute a unity rally and a recognition party for an underrepresented organization at St. Paul's. Both events were successful and the student leadership at St. Paul's plans to continue the using the Unity Committee to develop school unity in the future.

"I learned that good organizational skills and a positive attitude go a long way in starting and finishing a project. It was rewarding working with the Middle School student leaders at St. Paul's. I know the Unity Committee will continue to grow over the next few years and will help bring unity and recognition to all deserving groups at St. Paul's."



Battery Recycling and Education Project

Environment and Sustainability: Pollution

Partnered with: Pacific Marine Mammal Care Center

Alexandria Hinmon

South Coast Region: Laguna Beach Service Unit, Troop 1250

Girl Scout Ambassador, Laguna Beach High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Los Angeles (Undeclared sciences)/Medical Field

Alexandria educated people about the damage and contamination caused to the planet's oceans, waterways, the food people eat, and the water people drink, all caused by the improper disposal of household batteries. Her battery education campaign and collection program has benefitted Laguna Beach and surrounding communities. The California Waste Law of 2004 did not provide citizens with any way to recycle their batteries, therefore she has written to the state legislator and senator and asked them to help draft legislation requiring city governments to provide people and businesses with a way to dispose of household batteries properly.

"I enter each situation with a smile on my face. I am thankful as a woman to have learned about Girl Scout honor. A positive attitude has aided me in my dedication to helping others. I have learned dedication because of my passion to overcome the plight of our planet and waterways."



Self Defense Day

Healthy Relationships: Rape Prevention

Partnered with: Westminster High School

Kelly Ho

Central Coast Region: West Garden Service Unit, Troop 3997

Girl Scout Ambassador, Westminster High School

Kelly worked to educate others about how to protect themselves from assault.



From Food, to Worms, Then Back Again

Environment and Sustainability: Farming

Partnered with: Tesoro High School Conservation Club

Diana Hughes

Central Coast Region: HB Pierside Service Unit, Troop 1955

Girl Scout Ambassador, Tesoro High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Los Angeles/Nurse

Diana noticed that her school's Sustainable Garden was lacking an essential component, a composting system. After talking with teachers, she collected a team of other eco-conscious people who helped her construct a wooden composting bin and develop a system of collecting food waste from the school's cafeteria. With students upholding this system, the worms are fed daily with the food waste from the cafeteria and are able to make compost to be later used in the garden. This project not only deals with the wasteful disposal of food, it also provides an educational opportunity for students on sustainability.

"Since nature cannot be rushed, I was allowed to practice the art of patience and perseverance in this project as I waited for the production of compost. Throughout the year, I also developed greater communication and management skills with the team I worked with to keep the system going. This project not only nurtured but it grew our passions for the environment and how to take action to conserve it."



One Ocean, Our Ocean

Environment and Sustainability: Pollution

Partnered with: Ocean Institute

Gillian Ippoliti

South County Region: Lake Forest Service Unit, Troop 1412

Girl Scout Ambassador, Mission Viejo High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Marine Biologist/Environmental Scientist

Gillian created a beach cleanup program to address the issue of environmental awareness and encourage the community to be involved in taking care of our ocean. She created informational pamphlets and designed the program to be both interactive and educational. To establish the program, Gillian worked with Ocean Institute staff, advertised the cleanups through flyers and social media, and trained interns to run the program as well. To date, she has run eleven beach cleanups with anywhere between two and twenty-five participants in each one, and the program will be continued by Ocean Institute interns and volunteers in the future.

"As I worked with many different people at the Ocean Institute, I developed communication skills and learned how to advocate for my ideas. My project showed me that I prefer to take a hands-on approach to issues and get other people involved, and it also expanded my interest in the ocean and environmental issues."



Damsel No More

Healthy Relationships/Public Safety: Rape Prevention

Partnered with: Mariposa and Women's Transitional Living Center

Ainsley Johnstone

South Coast Region: Niguel Coast Service Unit, Troop 98

Girl Scout Ambassador, Mater Dei High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Nurse Practitioner

Ainsley chose to address the lack of awareness of sexual assault within her community and the world. Her target audience were high school and college age girls, as they are at the highest risk to be assaulted. By sharing self-defense techniques to girls in her community she addressed the worldwide issue of young women not being taught to defend themselves. The impact began with all the girls who attended Ainsley's event and will continue to grow as the Women's Transitional Living Center continues to hold Damsel No More seminars in the future.

"By working with organizations whose goals are to empower and defend women in my community I developed a strong sense of solidarity with all women. Being proactive and addressing an issue I saw in my community with my Gold Award taught me that I can make a positive impact in my community and in the world."



Fit for Life

Health: Mental Health

Partnered with: Fountain Valley High School

Danielle Joly

Central Region: Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 24 Rising Stars

Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Golden West College (Psychology)/High School Teacher

Danielle started a club called Fit for Life in order to ease and prevent depression and anxiety in high school students. Because of the busy, bustling lifestyle in Orange County, as well as high academic goals, many students are under great stress and develop a mental health problem. Danielle reached out to two of her school psychologists, a school health teacher, and several other expert individuals in order to accomplish her mission. Danielle held club meetings accompanied by healthy snacks and informative PowerPoints, as well as occasional exercise outings to inspire students to live healthy lives.

"By working with students who are all dealing with relatable stressors, I learned interpersonal skills such as communication and confidence to lead club members. I also developed quick thinking, problem solving, and public speaking skills. I learned that you need a team to really make a difference, and that it is possible for me to make a difference in those who are struggling with the same things I've struggled with."



Happy Hands

*Disability: Disability and Special Needs Issues
Partnered with: Gonsalves Elementary School*

Brianna Katsuda

Northwest Region: Anaheim Service Unit, Troop 881 Wisteria
Girl Scout Ambassador, Cerritos High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Occupational Therapy

Brianna created activity kits for special education students in order to get enough assistance with their fine motor skills. Due to budget cuts at local schools, students receive less help from therapists who would focus on problems with student's fine motor, cognitive and sensory skills. Brianna also created an easily accessed website consisting of instructions of the activities. In order to bring awareness of the issue, the website also provided an overview of fine motor skills and their importance. By providing an easy and portable activity, parents would bond with their child and help students strengthen their hands.

"As I led Key Club members once a month I learned the importance of staying organized, proactive, and effectively communicating. In addition, as I struggled to take constructive criticism from parents at first, I learned how to tackle it and adapt to their concerns, which was a very eye-opening experience as a leader. My interest of helping people with disabilities grew after researching helpful yet fun activities and information about fine motor skills."



Power Positivity Weekend Camps

*Civic Engagement: Community Development
Partnered with: Irvine Onnuri Church*

Yena Kim

South Coast Region: South Irvine Service Unit, Girl Scout Independent
Girl Scout Ambassador, Northwood High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of Michigan/Nurse

Yena chose to focus on an audience of children as she had served as a consistent elementary teacher at her church. Therefore, she hosted weekend camps that lasted for a month to encourage young children to be involved in a positive environment and spread happiness. Each day revolved around a different topic that promoted community development. Her purpose in carrying this project was to combat the negativity that society often imposes upon children through sources of media or advertising. The project is set to continue on annually even without her involvement.

"I learned that leadership is not a skill that is built through one's own personal effort but is built through the collaborative efforts of each other. There is no organizing without something to organize, no helping when there is no need for help, and no leading without people to lead. I realized how I grow more as a leader when I am surrounded by a supporting environment."



HIS House Employment Skill Building

*Education: Career Training
Partnered with: HIS House*

Jenika Kolacz

Northeast Region: Placentia Service Unit, Troop 1010
Girl Scout Senior, Valencia High School

Jenika Kolacz helped residents at a Homeless Intervention Shelter House with technological issues that they had during her time volunteering, with her two other technology students, who attend her school. She addressed the issue of homelessness in her area. The audience she impacted was the previously homeless residents that got back on their feet with a job and permanent housing. Her project can be measured by the amount of residents to find employment and get permanent housing from her help. Jenika's project is sustainable because she donated a counter top to double the amount of computers in the study room.

"Working with the residents in need, at HIS House, has taught me that different types of people come from different places good or bad, yet they do a really good job of using what they have. I have learned how to lead by reaching out to the head technology teacher at my High School, to send forth e-mails to students interested in volunteering with me, then teaching the technology students what they need to know."



Creating Community Drought-Resistant Landscapes

Environment and Sustainability: Water Conservation

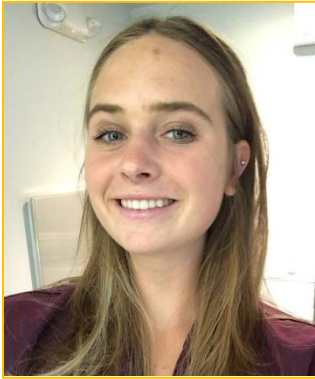
Partnered with: Emmanuel Episcopal Church

Emma Kremer

Northwest Region: Fullerton/La Habra Service Unit, Troop 925

Girl Scout Ambassador, Fullerton Union High School

Emma created native gardens in planters at her church.



A Film for Furry Friends

Animals: Animal Adoption

Partnered with: No Stray Left Behind

Nicole Larinde

South County Region: Mission Viejo Service Unit, Girl Scout Independent

Girl Scout Ambassador, Orange County School of the Arts

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Berkeley (Society and Environment)/
Environmental Lawyer

Nicole created a short documentary on the importance of pet adoption to show to kids in schools around Southern California. She partnered with the grassroots organization No Stray Left Behind, along with various other people and non-profits who shared the same passion for pet adoption, to create a film that would not only educate the youth, but inspire future generations. Nicole interviewed driven and motivated people of all ages from all parts of Southern California to share their stories and encourage others to join the movement towards a country free of puppy mills.

"I learned that no one is too young to make a difference and inspire others to work towards a common goal. Engaging with kids on such personal level about something I care so deeply about really put into perspective how passionate I am about these issues. I learned that leadership is not always most effective when it is single-handedly achieved, so acquiring a team helped me understand the importance of communication within a powerful community."



Music: The Universal Language

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Music

Partnered with: Huntington Valley Boys and Girls Club

Susan Le

Central Coast Region: West Garden Service Unit, Troop 5194 Lien Doan Truong Son

Girl Scout Ambassador, Orange County School of the Arts

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Berkeley

Susan created "Music: The Universal Language," a music program in which musicians from her high school, Orange County School of the Arts (OCSA), could have the opportunity to showcase their instruments and music knowledge to elementary school students. This project reflects the significant impact music has had on Susan's life, and has created a bridge between OCSA and the Kingston Boys and Girls Club Branch in order to continue allowing musicians the opportunity to teach and students the opportunity to learn about instruments and the various components of music.

"Throughout this project, I have learned that it brings me so much joy when I am able to successfully get a lesson across to a student. There is no greater satisfaction in teaching, than knowing that your students are learning. Earning my Gold Award showed me that no matter the feat, I will be able to overcome and accomplish it if I smartly use my leadership skills."



Job Seeking for Those with Spectrum Disorder

Disability: Disability and Special Needs Issues

Partnered with: Saddleback College

Jordan Lee

South Coast Region: South Irvine Service Unit, Troop 468

Girl Scout Senior, University High School

Jordan first saw a need to help adults with autism find employment when her stepbrother with autism was searching for a job. She created workshops designed to help people with autism improve their interview skills, and taught them to students with autism at Saddleback College. Jordan also led a team of students and members of UHS Dreams to go store-to-store speaking with managers to convince them to hire people with autism and educate them about the benefits of hiring people with autism. She hopes UHS Dreams will continue to work with Saddleback College to offer employment workshops.

"I worked to develop workshops that would be a positive influence on adults with autism going through the interview for employment process. As I worked on my Gold Award project, I improved my public speaking as well as leadership skills within small and large groups, and most importantly, I discovered that I can help others and make positive change within my community and the world if I take action."



F.L.Y.: First Love Yourself

Health: Mental Health

Partnered with: La Quinta High School Mock Trial

Phoebe Levan

Central Coast Region: West Garden Service Unit, Troop 5194 Lien Doan Huong Dao Truong Son

Girl Scout Ambassador, La Quinta High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Orange Coast Community College (Business Administration and Public Relations)/CEO of my own Special Event Company

Phoebe created F.L.Y.: First Love Yourself with the intentions of helping others get over the fear of being judged and learning to love themselves. She believes that at the end of the day, the person you should care about the most is yourself and no one else. Your judgment of yourself is greater than any other person. To implement this lesson, she created a one-week self-expression camp, where youths can learn how to express themselves through different forms or art. She hopes that her project will be the stepping stone for people to take a step in the right direction.

"Because my project required many different fields of expertise, I learned the importance of trust and delegation. Personally, for me, my type of leadership is very hands on but because my project deals with different kinds of specialties I had to believe that my team will carry out the vision that I had in mind."



Domestic Violence Prevention and Awareness

Healthy Relationships: Domestic Violence

Partnered with: Human Options and Second Step

Fiona Lichodziejewski

Central Region: Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 24 Rising Stars

Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Los Angeles/Astrophysics/Aerospace Engineering

Fiona's first high school boyfriend was controlling, jealous and isolated her from her friends. For her Gold Award Take Action Project, Fiona wanted to share her experience so other teens would recognize red flags that might lead to domestic abuse. She founded the Domestic Violence Prevention and Awareness (D.V.P.A.) Club at her high school. D.V.P.A. hosted guest speakers who educated students about healthy and abusive relationships, and the differences between them. Club members plan to broaden awareness in years to come.

"Working on my Gold Award Project and starting the D.V.P.A. Club taught me to delegate and collaborate with my team, to network with other organizations, and also gave me more confidence when speaking publicly. I realized that when I manage my time efficiently, I can keep up with my studies, marching band, and still find time to plan D.V.P.A. meetings and have fun. Earning my Gold Award has empowered me to help others."



Save the Monarch Butterflies

Animals: Animal Safety

Phoebe Logier

Northwest Region: Anaheim Service Unit, Troop 1325 Horizons
Girl Scout Ambassador, John F. Kennedy High School

Phoebe educated the community about the dwindling Monarch Butterfly population and simple things that can be done to help planted multiple butterfly gardens.



2017 National Young Woman of Distinction

STEMup4Youth

STEM/Education/Children's Issues: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math/ Career Training/Mentoring
Partnered with: Boys & Girls Clubs, Libraries, Expos, Festivals, Schools, Events



Sharleen Loh

Northeast Region: Yorba Linda West Service Unit, Troop 330 "Aku Aku"
Girl Scout Ambassador, Troy High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Biochemistry

A few years ago, Sharleen realized that the US was lacking a large enough STEM workforce to fill the millions of job openings in the next few decades. She decided to take action and make a change. Sharleen started introducing STEM to children, especially the underprivileged who have the least resources. She founded a nonprofit organization, STEMup4Youth; recruited over 140 volunteers; and visited different locations on a weekly basis to bring the children fun, hands-on STEM activities. So far, she has reached out to over 3000 children around Southern California, and her organization is still growing!

"Spreading my passion for STEM along with others with a similar mindset has been an amazing experience! In the process of earning my Gold Award, I've learned how to follow through with an idea, champion a cause, deal with setbacks, resolve conflicts, and lead my peers. I learned that anyone with a passion can make a positive impact in the world, whether it be big or small."



Drought in the West to Rest

Environment and Sustainability: Water Conservation
Partnered with: Bolsa Grande High School

Shirley Lu

Central Region: Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 997 Lien Doan Hoa Lu
Girl Scout Ambassador, Bolsa Grande High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: California State University, Fullerton (Accounting)

For Shirley's project, she focused on a national issue, drought. Since people have been ignoring the problem for five years, Shirley decided to create a booklet with Dirt Diggers on the importance of water conservation in California. She focused on students at a bible school organization and Boys and Girls Club to address this issue. The booklet that she created was able to measure the students' water usage and if the methods of water conservation worked. With Dirt Diggers' help, she was able to sustain her project since they continued visiting other schools to address this issue.

"Through my Gold Award Take Action Project, I dealt with children of all ages for my project. I had to adjust my way of presenting my project to the students and look from every perspective. My project allowed me to experience what a teacher would in his or her everyday life. This made me figured out how much I enjoyed teaching little kids and the ease that comes with it."



Generations Growing Gardens

Children's Issues/Elderly Issues: Mentoring/Senior Centers

Partnered with: Fountain Valley High School, Carmel Retirement Village

Frances Ly

South Coast Region: Heart of Irvine Service Unit, Troop 1809

Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School

Frances created a garden and a gardening program for her local high school and senior center which addressed the issue of the generation gap between the two as well as the social isolation that the senior citizens face. She developed a project plan to meet with the senior citizens weekly throughout the summer for two months. She worked with the gardening club president and the activities director to plan the types of plants to implement, snacks to bring, and the dates available to meet. It opened the idea of conversing and socializing to teenagers with senior citizens in her community.

"As I worked with the high school students and the senior citizens to bridge the generation gap, I learned communication and leadership skills. I realized that I can truly make a difference in my community and inspire the participation of others. It allowed me to bring joy to people of all ages whenever I can."



LEGO STEMgineering

STEM: Math, Science

Partnered with: Garden Grove Public Library

Haley Mai

South County Region: Rancho Trabuco Service Unit, Girl Scout Independent

Girl Scout Ambassador, Tesoro High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Lawyer

Haley Mai created her Math and Science Lesson Plans to inspire a different point-of-view on Math and Science. She created Lesson Plans that implemented basic STEM skills in a fun and engaging manner. Haley's main audience was the kids and pre-teens (ages 7 to 12) of the Garden Grove Library. By providing the Library with the Lesson Plans Haley Mai created, the Library Staff and Volunteers will run the LEGO STEMgineering Program in their Summer Activities Catalog.

"I will develop a stronger sense of self; I at first thought that I was poor at dealing with children because I didn't feel responsible enough and lacking in the ability to relate with them. This project has helped me encourage and relate to children as well as provide a cheery attitude towards them. Throughout this project, I learned endurance, cooperation, and management, aspects of myself that were undeveloped till now."



A Time to Dance

Health: Fitness

Partnered with: Dance Works

Jordyn Margolis

South County Region: Ladera Valley Service Unit, Troop 2608

Girl Scout Ambassador, San Juan Hills High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Point Park University (Molecular Biology and Dance)/Dancer or Bio Technician

Jordyn is currently studying dance in college and wanted to share her love of dancing with others. She noticed that elementary school students have either art class or physical education and wanted a way for students to mesh both together. She geared it towards elementary schools and their students because it is a more accepting and audience. The fact that the elementary schools use her project since the students ask for it is one way that Jordyn measured her impact. The video that she made is on youtube for all elementary schools.

"I learned that sometimes the initial project that you set out to do is not always the one that you finish with. I had to make a plan B and C that evolved into the finalized project and as a result, learned how to become a better leader for larger projects down the road."



Caring for Caregivers

Health: Diseases

Partnered with: St. Jude Caregiver Resource Center

Olivia Massick

South County Region: Oso Valley Service Unit, Troop 261 Tempest

Girl Scout Ambassador, Capistrano Valley High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Saddleback College (Psychology)/Occupational Therapist

Olivia's project provides tools to family caregivers, taking care of a loved one who has been newly diagnosed with a disease or condition. Caregivers constantly need encouragement and tools to stay organized in order to successfully and smoothly take care of a loved one. She has developed Caring for Caregivers binders, tools for the caregivers to make this transition easier in both the long and short-run. By creating a ready resource for family caregivers, she hopes to take the stress away from searching all over to find information to help them with their new role.

"Leadership skills I have developed are organizing a team, constructing meetings, and being punctual. I learned that if I prioritize and set short-term goals, they will become long-term accomplishments, and eventually fulfill my vision. Critical thinking was key because nobody had ever done anything like my project before and I had to think and create every step without any examples. My project made me feel powerful as I know large organizations will carry it forward."



Speak Out

Civic Engagement: Community Development

Partnered with: Kinoshita

Nikki Minagar

South Coast Region: Niguel Coast Service Unit, Troop 96

Girl Scout Senior, Dana Hills High School

Nikki chose this project because public speaking is the second greatest fear in the world, and is also something that is prevalent in lives throughout adulthood. The target audience is young children because they are at the developmental stage and building these skills at a young age is vital in preparing them for the real world. The local connection is helping people in our county and forming a team of students from Orange County. The measurable impact is the number of students and their newfound capabilities in public speaking and debate. The project will continue through the high school club.

"Through this league, I have developed skills that help me connect with younger children and have bettered my ability to inform. I have learned that I am a good educator when it comes to something I am passionate about. This project has exacerbated my interest in public speaking and debate."



Operation S.T.O.P. Human-trafficking

Human Rights: Human Trafficking

Partnered with: FashUnited

Sydney Montgomery

Northeast Region: Placentia Service Unit, Troop 822

Girl Scout Ambassador, Walnut High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Howard University (Sociology/Political Science)/Attorney

Sydney was shocked to learn that human trafficking affects every country in the world and that every 30 seconds another person becomes a victim. She partnered with a local nonprofit organization committed to raising awareness of this issue, and organized a project with presentation to youth groups; created/distributed flyers with local resources available to help victims; created a video; and designed cards with practices for personal safety tips recommended by local law enforcement agencies. A group of students on Sydney's high school campus will continue her project every year by replying her video & distributing her resources throughout campus.

"I developed leadership skills in communications, motivating, and delegating/engaging others. I learned the importance of being a member of the community and how leadership involves being a part of the solution to issues and concerns affecting the community. I also learned how to partner and collaborate with others that share similar concerns and how to affect positive changes that can be sustained. I'm thankful I was given this opportunity to make a difference."



Library Peritia

Education: Literacy

Partnered with: Bay Bay Elementary School, San Antonio Youth Ministry

Megan Musquiz

Northeast Region: Yorba Linda East Service Unit, Troop 1153

Girl Scout Ambassador, Canyon High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of Portland/Federal Law Enforcement

Megan established a library at Bay Bay Elementary School in order to inspire and help children in their quest for literacy and higher education. She collaborated with a local church youth group as well as the faculty at Bay Bay in order to obtain and create the necessary materials for a library and literacy program. Megan then traveled to the Philippines to set up the library and meet the students and faculty for the first time in person to discuss the future plans of the program. The programs goal is to assist generations of children's new literary skills.

"Possibility determines the future, and with abundant opportunity in my community, it is only right that I go to a community with little opportunity. By working with Bay Bay Elementary School I was able to garner patience in communication as well as overcome language barriers all for the sake of one common goal: Literacy. Earning my Gold Award has helped my community and me to realize not only local, but global needs."



Music for Your Brain

Arts, Culture, and Heritage/Elderly Issues/Health: Music/Senior Centers/Mental Health

Partnered with: Niguel Hills Middle School

Tiffany Nakamura

Northwest Region: Anaheim Service Unit, Troop 881 Wisteria

Girl Scout Ambassador, Dana Hills High School

Tiffany's project combined her passions of music and children with her interest in mental health. She targeted brain function in elderly. Music has been proven to increase brain function, and music is also a universal language. As seen through a resident who joined in on playing I've Been Working on the Railroad, a person's background does not matter; if they can recall a familiar melody, they can relate and even join in. Tiffany led 60 middle school students to impact nearly 40 people and will continue to impact this community as the students have learned to arrange their own visits.

"Earning my Gold Award pushed me outside my comfort zone. Having never been the type of person to raise my voice or speak up in front of a group of people, I gained confidence while learning to take charge of a situation. Now I willingly lead others and stand in the center of a group of people. This project assured me that I have what it takes to be a leader."



Stop the Drops

Education/Children's Issues: Literacy/Mentoring

Partnered with: Anaheim Public Library

Amy Nguyen

Central Region: Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1279 Lien Doan Chi Lang

Girl Scout Ambassador, Cypress High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: California State University, Fullerton

Amy created a free after school tutoring program hosted by high school students called Homework Help that allowed elementary school kids to understand the basic fundamentals of math and English, which will overall lower the amount of high school dropouts in the future. The project brought together local students of all ages in the community, as well as the library, in pushing the importance of having a strong, basic education. The program will be continued on as high school students tutor their younger classmates.

"By helping out in my community, I have grown to understand the importance of education, and that even a single person can start a ripple that will continue to affect others. My Gold Award has taught me to be confident in myself, as well as teach kids to be confident in their school work and future."



Healing Through Harmony

Elderly Issues: Senior Centers

Partnered with: Atria Senior Home, Alta gardens Care Center

Britney Nguyen

South County Region: Heart of Irvine Service Unit, Troop 1809

Girl Scout Ambassador, Arnold O. Beckman High School

Britney targeted the generational gap between teenagers and seniors after noticing the lack of communication between the two generations. First, she created a group of teenagers that would go to senior homes. At these senior homes, Britney and her club played music to relax the seniors and talked to the seniors to create a connection and sense of joy for the lonely seniors. This relates to the natural separation between the generations that is seen throughout the world. Within the community, the positive spirits of the seniors was clearly seen. In the future, this project will continue as a club.

"As I worked to build a connection between generations, I learned to value my experiences in life and to be grateful for those around me. Earning my Gold Award has taught me to plan ahead of time, work efficiently, and continue bridging together seniors and teenagers for a happier familial environment."



Oak View Buddies

Education: Literacy

Partnered with: Oak View Branch Library

Elaine Nguyen

Central Region: Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 997 Lien Doan Hoa Lu

Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Pediatrician

Elaine created a free summer English literacy program for ESL students and other immigrants from kindergarten to 5th grade in order to teach students more literacy to prepare for the school year. She planned out her program at the Oak View Library and made flyers to promote the program. The program lasted throughout the summer every Monday from 2-5 PM. She was able to have about 20 students attend each week and made a survey for the initial and end result to see the impact. After her program, she was able to present her project at other libraries.

"Over time, I was able to gain many leadership and social skills by interacting with staff, teaching students, and leading my team. I learned that with a little push, I am capable of leading a big group of students and staff to achieve something inspiring and helpful to the community. This project has allowed me to make an impact in my community and hopefully inspired others to do the same."



Guitar Camp for Happiness

Arts, Culture and Heritage: Music

Partnered with: Garden Grove Regional Library

Emily Nguyen

Central Coast Region: Huntington Beach Pierside Service Unit, Troop 963

Girl Scout Ambassador, Huntington Beach High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of Southern California/Biomedical Engineering

Emily taught middle and high school students how to play guitar to help these students utilize this useful skill for coping with stress. Many teenagers are stressed out with school that they cannot find time to do their favorite activities. There are people all over the world who are so worried about their work that they cannot find time to do their favorite activities, so they become stressed. The guitar program Emily created at the Garden Grove Regional Library has 4 sessions, during which 8-12 students attended. The program will be continued by the Holy Spirit Catholic Church Youth Choir.

"During the course of my project, I developed more confidence, became more efficient in events coordination, and learned how to build and lead a great team. Through this project, I became more connected to my community, learned to overcome struggles, and resolved conflicts that came my way. By doing this project, I became more capable of developing healthy relationships, identifying community issues, and educating and inspiring others to act."



Hope for Brighter Futures

Education: Literacy

Partnered with: Sweet Water Social Assistance Center

Emily Nguyen

South Coast Region: Heart of Irvine Service Unit, Troop 1809 Lien Doan Huong Viet

Girl Scout Ambassador, Corona del Mar High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Riverside/Physician Assistant

Emily wanted to give children an opportunity to learn English so that they could have better futures. The issue she addressed is the absence of an opportunity for a number of poor children to learn, due to a lack of resources. The center she helped has 30 orphans and 30 disabled children, ages 2-16. Illiteracy is a global issue. She taught the head nuns and adult volunteers how to use the computer and programs. These key people will show other nuns and volunteers how to use the tools, and thus allowing the learning to continue for the children.

"While developing perseverance, hard-work, and determination to carry out this project, I also learned how to teach and communicate with others in order to achieve my goals. I learned that I love working with children. This project made me realize that it is very rewarding to help people who are in need, and I want to continue doing charity projects in the future!"



Street Awareness

Public Safety/Health: Fitness

Partnered with: GetSafeUSA

Jasmine Nguyen

Central Region: Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 515 Lien Doan Lac Viet

Girl Scout Ambassador, Garden Grove High School

The world is slowly becoming a dangerous world to live in. People tend to think that men are the only ones who can protect themselves, but Jasmine wanted to see girls fight for themselves. She worked with GetSafeUSA organization in order to educate people of all ages to gain knowledge on self-defense. Jasmine was able to help a group of teenage girls and work with a club who will help provide information about defense to improve physical and mental strengths.

"My project has helped me improve my communication and leadership skills. I had to organize information with many adults through email and appointments. I especially learned how important our own safety was and how we are the ones with control over ourselves. This project has helped me become more passionate about helping other people gain more knowledge on self-defense. I hope to see the world become a better place in the future."



Miracle of Friendship

Disability: Disability and Special Needs Issues

Partnered with: OC Autism

Kristy Nguyen

Central Region: Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 515 Lien Doan Lac Viet

Girl Scout Ambassador, Rancho Alamitos High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Santa Barbara (Chemistry)

Kristy grew up in a community with many kids with Autism. She avoided them her whole life and it was finally time to change that. She wanted to raise awareness. Her target audience was high school students. In Kristy's community, many people also avoided people with Autism because they were unaware when it comes to Autism. The project was successful. Many high school students wanted to come back and become a permanent volunteer for the organization. They loved the kids though they originally feared them. Kristy worked with Women's League to continue volunteering and recruiting volunteers after her project is over.

"As my project went on, I learned how to work well under pressures, especially when the kids with Autism became unpredictable. I learned that patience is not my strong point but it definitely got better as my project went on. I've always loved kids, but I never interacted with kids with Autism. Through this project, I learned how great those kids could be and I'd love to work with them again."



The ART of Reading

Education: Literacy

Partnered with: Boys and Girls Club

Lillian Nguyen

South Coast Region: Heart of Irvine Service Unit, Troop 1809 Lien Doan Huong Viet

Girl Scout Ambassador, University High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, San Diego/Art Director/Illustrator

Lillian's project, The ART of Reading, takes a visual approach to encouraging reading in elementary students. In order to create a welcoming environment where students could find books and read, she painted the school library's walls with murals of children's books. Furthermore, in order to encourage children to pursue their own independent reading outside of school, she set up a reading club where students would read and complete a small art activity pertaining to their reading.

"Working on my project combined two of my passions in life: art and reading. Through painting murals and teaching the students art activities that related to their reading, I found a way to direct my own talents into helping my community, and found ways to inspire people visually the way art has inspired me in my own life."



Library Laboratory

Education/STEM: Science

Partnered with: Garden Grove Regional Library

Maylinh Nguyen

Central Coast Region: HB Pierside Service Unit, Troop 963

Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: UC Santa Barbara (Computer Science)

Maylinh organized and operated a science program from scratch in order to instill a spark of interest within young children through an enrichment of simple STEM projects. Her goal was to provide an easily accessible form of loose education to kids that didn't have local resources prior to grade school. Her science program created a choice for participants to decide if STEM was a passion of theirs as opposed to never gaining firsthand experience until later. The lesson plans Maylinh drafted would allow for sustained impact in the years to come as the library plans to reuse them each summer.

"Everyone develops a career-focused passion whether it be later in life or from the first moment you form a conscious thought. Mine happened to revolve around computer sciences and STEM, and my Gold Project allowed me to further explore my interests while also providing a substantial experience for young children to explore such fields at an imposing age."



Be Prepared: Not Just a Boy Scout Motto

Education/Children's Issues: Mentoring

Partnered with: Beachpoint Church: Valley Day Afterschool program

Rosa Nguyen

Central Coast Region: West Garden Service Unit, Troop 5194 Lien Doan Truong Son

Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Chapman University (Business Administration/Marketing)/Wedding Planner

Rosa created a month-long program at Beachpoint Church, where middle school students could learn practical skills like time management, healthy prioritization and public speaking. Her goal was to encourage the younger generation to develop healthy habits and to become role models for their peers. Through volunteer-led activities and presentations, the young participants grew into more focused, responsible and self-sufficient individuals. Following the month-long educational program, Rosa continued to promote her project at her high school, where informational pamphlets were provided to faculty and students.

"My weekly interactions with the middle school students molded me to become an empathetic but also assertive leader. I learned about my passion to help others succeed and reach their full potential in life. Gaining more knowledge about myself and others through my project spurs me to continue to improve the community around me."



Stand Up for What You Stand On

Environment and Sustainability: Climate Change

Partnered with: San Diego EarthWorks, Fountain Valley Community

Tracy Nguyen

Central Region: Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 515 Lien Doan Lac Viet

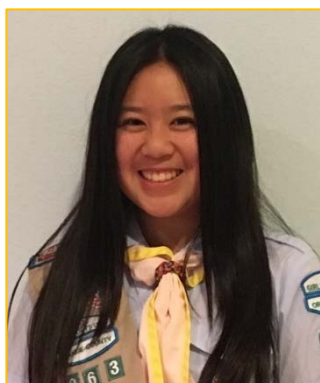
Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Orange Coast College (Environmental Engineering)/

Move to a third world country

Tracy and her team attended San Diego EarthWorks Fair to pass out handmade flyer, which were prepared by her team beforehand, to educate attendees on climate change. Also, to target an older generation, her team passed out flyers in front of supermarkets for store customers to engage with climate change. And to reach a younger generation, they hosted at arts and craft day based around climate change for children in her community. Lastly, her team wanted to reach a wider range of audience, so they made videos to educate audience on climate change and uploaded them on YouTube.

"I was never put in charge of a team and having to take control of the responsibility. But I learned that the importance in leadership is comfort. I can't lead a group with instructions, but with comfort. My team needed a sense of comfort when one of our project's event didn't make the cut or wasn't able to be accomplished. My team grew with the comfort of each other and not of what we accomplished."



This is a Reminder That Food Allergies are Forever

Health: Diseases

Partnered with: Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Vicky Nguyen

Central Coast Region: HB Pierside Service Unit, Troop 963

Girl Scout Ambassador, Huntington Beach High School

Vicky created magnets and pamphlets with the help of a team that supported awareness for food allergies. She contacted doctors and numerous organizations that provided her with flyers and more information needed for the pamphlets. She set up a booth where she handed out all of her materials to parents and their children at her local library. Vicky hoped to have families be more aware about food allergies and to recognize how serious they can be to those who are allergic.

"Throughout my project, I learned a great deal about the importance of organization and priorities. Planning a strict schedule and preparing everything ahead of time helped me ensure the completion of my Gold Award. This project and my advisor taught me that I have to recognize what tasks come first and how to approach deadlines in order to be successful in the future."



Volunteer Video Tutorials

Education/Disability: Disability and Special Needs Issues

Partnered with: The Shea Center

Lesley Osorio

South Coast Region: Aliso Viejo Service Unit, Troop 734

Girl Scout Ambassador, Aliso Niguel High School

Lesley created the video tutorials to teach the volunteers how to do the basic duties while volunteering so that staff members have more time to help out the clients of the Shea Center. To tackle this project, she used her filming and video editing skills to make creative videos. The videos are on the computers for future volunteers to use when they need to learn how to do a task while volunteering. Furthermore, the staff will have more time to spread awareness about therapeutic riding on horses.

"As I worked daily with volunteers to help the Shea Center, I learned the importance of helping others. This has sparked my interest in choosing a career devoted to helping those in need. Working with the horses has also driven my passion with animals. Earning my Girl Scout Gold Award showed me that if I am determined, I can achieve anything."



NeuroBeanies

Health: Self-image

Partnered with: St. Jude Hospital and St. Joseph Hospital

Alexandria Owens

Northeast Region: Placentia Service Unit, Troop 822

Girl Scout Ambassador, El Dorado High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Santa Ana College (Psychology)/Clinical Neuroscientist

Alexandria was inspired to make beanies and hold workshops for brain surgery patients at St. Jude/Joseph Hospital after watching her mother struggle with her self-image after undergoing brain surgery. The goal of her project was to tackle the issue of self-consciousness and let those who have to go through brain surgery know that they are no less of a person, they are still beautiful people, and they are loved. To make this happen she made a ministry at her church of people who wanted to help make the beanies and that is how she plans to continue this project.

"Throughout this project I gained additional leadership skills and developed a better understanding of how everyone has different lives and is going through their own struggles. But even though we might be dealing with our issues and struggles it is still a great feeling to help others and have a compassionate heart towards those who may have it worse than ourselves."



Track and Field Summer Camp

Health: Fitness

Partnered with: El Dorado High School

Corinne Padar

Northeast Region: Placentia Service Unit, Troop 1010

Girl Scout Senior, El Dorado High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: To work in the field of law or business

Corinne used her passion for track and field to complete this project. With this project she addressed the national issue of childhood obesity. Corinne put out flyers to two local elementary schools, in the end about 30 kids were signed up for the camp. She also coordinated with her high school to get volunteers. On the first day of the camp the kids ran 100 meters and they did the same on the last day. Their times were greatly improved. This project will be continued by El Dorado's track team for years to come.

"Throughout this project I learned that not everything is going to go as planned and that is okay. But I also learned to be ready for everything. Working with my peers and the elementary school kids helped me to further develop my patience which is essential to leading. This project sparked an interest in helping younger kids in my community."



Be Cool - Recycle at School!

Environment and Sustainability: Pollution

Partnered with: Excelsior Elementary School

Emily Pearce

Central Coast Region: West Garden Service Unit, Troop 2390

Girl Scout Ambassador, Garden Grove High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Orange Coast College (Communications)

Emily created and implemented a recycling program at two elementary schools. She taught the students about what items can be recycled. She organized a group of students called the "green team" to pick up the recycling from each classroom. She developed a project timeline and budget and worked with her project advisor to get approval from the school district to begin the recycling program. Approximately one thousand children participate in the recycling program at the schools, reducing the amount of trash going to the landfill.

"As I worked on my Gold Award, I learned the importance of planning ahead and working toward a goal. I learned how to share my ideas with others so my recycling project will be sustained at the schools year after year with the help of the "green teams." Earning my Gold Award showed me that if I work hard, I can achieve my goals."



Plant a Tree, Get Air for Free!

Environment and Sustainability: Climate Change

Partnered with: OC Parks

Maegan Perez

Northwest Region: Brea Service Unit, Troop 1562

Girl Scout Ambassador, Brea Olinda High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: California Baptist University (Nursing)/ER Nurse

Maegan is passionate about improving the air quality and believes that she could reduce the amount of emissions on our earth, one tree at a time. Trees absorb the Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere, reducing the amounts a little at a time, and also reducing the probability of humans having respiratory problems in the future. Her target audience was everyone who enjoys clean, fresh outdoor air. The atmosphere is all around us, we are constantly breathing in polluted air that comes from a huge deal of Carbon Dioxide released from cars, factories, fires, and much more.

"I developed a stronger sense of self. I resolved conflicts and I felt more connected to my community, locally, and globally. I developed a greater sense of leadership with teenagers around my age, and adults older than me. I learned to be informative and to communicate more adequately with a large group of individuals. I also learned how one person can make a difference, whether small or large, but the difference can last a lifetime."



Diving Into Safety

Public Safety: Water Safety

Partnered with: Waterworks Aquatics

Daphne Pham

Central Coast Region: West Garden Service Unit, Troop 3997

Girl Scout Ambassador, Marina High School

As a swimmer, Daphne realizes it is important to be safe in the water, but realizes not everyone knows how to swim. Her project consisted of a presentation on water safety given by a lifeguard, and open swim time which allowed attendees to practice being attentive while swimming. She also created a YouTube video with 10 tips to staying safe in the pool. Although she wasn't able to directly teach her audience how to swim, she believes it is important for children to be educated on water safety and apply those skills and be safe while swimming in the future.

"Through my Gold Award, I have grown both as a person and as a leader. My skills delegating have strengthened immensely, learning that working on a big project is more efficient with the help of others than working alone. Earning my Gold Award also showed me that I have a voice and can make a positive impact on the community."



Sing to Learn Vietnamese with Ease!

Arts, Culture and Heritage: Cultural Awareness

Partnered with: The Association of Vietnamese Language and Culture Schools

Evelyn Pham

South Coast Region: Heart of Irvine Service Unit, Troop 1809 Lien Doan Huong Viet

Girl Scout Ambassador, Irvine High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of Southern California/Music Industry

Evelyn worked with songwriters, musicians, youth leaders, volunteers, and Vietnamese language teachers in her community to produce and distribute her educational music CD, "Sing and Learn Vietnamese with Ease!" Children and those who are unfamiliar with their Vietnamese roots learn about their heritage in a fun and engaging way. The CD debuted at the showcasing concert where over 250 guests attended and each received a complimentary CD. 2,000 were distributed in bulk to Vietnamese Language school districts and scouting troops throughout the world and implemented into their programs. The CD is accessible online, serving Vietnamese communities worldwide.

"As a shy and quiet girl who speaks broken Vietnamese, I never imagined myself being able to delegate a large group of scouts, parents, and organizations to help make my vision possible. Speaking Vietnamese for television, newspaper, and radio interviews was a hurdle I never thought of tackling. However, I learned through persistence, patience, and confidence, even the quietest of people can make a difference in the world, one word at a time."



Bringing Golden Sunshine

*Health/Children's Issues: Mental Health
Partnered with: PIH Health Hospital - Whittier*

Samantha Place

Northwest Region: Fullerton/La Habra Service Unit, Troop 394 Sovereign
Girl Scout Ambassador, Troy High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Nursing

Samantha created her "Bringing Golden Sunshine" trilingual coloring book to reduce childhood anxiety in a hospital setting and brighten the hospital's atmosphere. She delivered 150 copies of the book to the Emergency Department, visited with patients, and saw firsthand how special her book was. In order to ensure sustainability, Samantha worked with hospital administrators and volunteers to publish the file on their computer system so it can be printed and used across the hospital. She also created a website for anyone to use the book and shared her project with other hospitals thinking they could benefit as well.

"Throughout this process, I learned how simple acts of kindness like my coloring book can prove to have immeasurable and amazing impacts. I also learned how to solve problems, work in a team, and implement an idea into something really special. I feel that because I have completed this, I will be more likely to pursue more challenging and rewarding things later on in life."



A Roaring Night to Remember

*Elderly Issues: Dementia
Partnered with: Sunrise Senior Living, Tustin*

Sarah Politiski

Central Region: Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1015 Aquila
Girl Scout Ambassador, Mater Dei High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Vanderbilt University/Civil Engineer

Sarah addressed intergenerational communication between the elderly and their families through hosting events for Sunrise at Tustin. At the events, there was opportunities for families to learn how to better communicate with their aging family member, like interactive booklets. The attendees also created new memories through dancing, music and other activities. Sarah's project will be sustained through the training of staff at Sunrise who have committed to keeping the project alive. She has hoped to have made an impact on the lives of the residents and their families through the skills she taught and opportunities she created.

"My Gold Award set up the fundamentals of my growth as a leader. Because of this project, I am now able to adapt to different leadership roles that I could not have done before. I can be a responsible and responsive leader in my future endeavors due to my Girl Scout Gold Award project."



Mission Viejo Girls Softball CHAMPS Program

*Sports/Disability: Underprivileged Kids/Access
Partnered with: Mission Viejo Girls Softball*

Emily Pufahl

South County Region: Oso Valley Service Unit, Troop 1349
Girl Scout Ambassador, Laguna Hills High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: San Francisco State University (Computer Engineering)/
Hardware Computer Engineer

Emily created this CHAMPS program in order for disabled girls to be able to play softball just like she did growing up. It was a big deal to her since softball changed her life as a child, and she thought just because these girls were disabled, shouldn't take away from them being able to play a sport. Emily involved her local softball leagues in order to start the program and even though less than 3 girls were involved, the impact it made on their lives was enormous. This project is continuing on every spring season for girls to play.

"My leadership skills were put to the test during this project. Many adults looked down on me since I was just a kid until I repetitively went to them so they would take me seriously. Creating an entire program by myself really taught me what leadership is and how to handle certain situations."



Alzheimer's Connections – Building and Maintaining Loving Relationships

Health/Elderly Issues: Mental Health/Dementia

Partnered with: Alzheimer's Family Services Center

Julia Qualls

Central Region: Newport Harbor Service Unit, Troop 871

Girl Scout Ambassador, Mater Dei High School

Julia created a program to educate family members and caregivers on effective ways to communicate and interact with people with early and mid-stage Alzheimer's. This issue is a personal one for Julia. Her grandmother had Alzheimer's and her struggle with this disease inspired Julia to find a way to help. She worked with two memory care facilities and designed workshops with activities to spark memories and start conversations. A key part of her workshops were the sensory boxes containing items focusing on all five senses, sight, touch, hearing, smell and taste, to help stimulate memories and facilitate conversations. Julia shared her tools and activities with family members by publishing an online article and pamphlet to help them maintain loving relationships with people with Alzheimer's.

"Through my Gold Award project, I realized I can make a difference in someone's life by being respectful, caring and interacting with them. I was happy to see that my sensory memory boxes were effective tools in stimulating conversations and helping people make connections. I learned to be "present" with each Alzheimer's patient. This experience reinforced to me that small gestures such as a smile, a happy memory or kind word make life meaningful."



Feel Better, Eat Better, Live Better

Health: Self-Image

Partnered with: SMILE Club

Shalini Rao

South Coast Region: North Irvine Service Unit, Troop 864

Girl Scout Ambassador, Northwood High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Computer Programmer

Shalini established a school-wide event at her high school to help students come together and create a positive environment surrounding healthy lifestyle and self-confidence. She created a website to share the sources she used and document her project, hoping that students from other schools would use her project as inspiration to establish similar events at their own schools. She hopes this will become a national, or possibly international, event and that it will diminish the idea that teenagers should only follow certain lifestyles or mindsets to fit a certain body type.

"I worked with clubs and psychology professionals, coordinating a schedule that work with many of them to create a comprehensive event that could help as many people as possible. I learned how to persevere despite last minute obstacles and changes and how to adjust based on the response from the participants. But most of all, I learned how to move beyond my own fears in order to make the biggest change for the community."



Reading to Remember

Elderly Issues: Dementia

Partnered with: Silverado Memory Care Center

Taline Ratanjee

Central Region: Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1015 Aquila

Girl Scout Ambassador, JSerra Catholic High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Boston College (Political Science/Business)/Lawyer

Taline collected over seven thousand books and created her Reading to Remember program to encourage teenagers to become aware of this important topic in our community and also for the elderly residents at the center to exercise their brain and create relationships with the volunteers. To organize this program, she developed a project plan including a timeline and library system and also had key experts that assisted her with the organization of the library system. In the end, Taline's program fostered organic friendships between the elderly care residents and the high school students through reading.

"Working on my project to spread awareness of memory care loss, I learned how to be a better leader, more organized, have good time management skills, and how to inspire others. I am very grateful that I was able to complete my Girl Scout Gold Award and hope that I have inspired others to complete this project."



Build a Garden and Build Nutrition Classes

Health: Nutrition

Partnered with: Thomas House Temporary Shelter

Abigail Redman

Central Region: Newport Mesa Service Unit, Troop 227
Girl Scout Ambassador, Corona del Mar High School

Abby addressed the lack of education of nutrition in low income areas by creating and implementing monthly nutrition classes that included a small activity to keep the children engaged. Abby built two gardens for the families at the Thomas House Temporary Shelter to teach them about accessibility to fresh food and the sustainability of gardens. In order to make this project informational, she developed a project timeline, a budget, and contacted key people to advise her, including a pediatrician, a gardener, and other valuable volunteers. The lessons will be carried on by Thomas House to teach the incoming families.

"I learned problem solving skills while working with the children and expanded my creativity to create lesson plans that would capture and hold the attention of the kids. My Gold Award project taught me to be a strong leader and showed me that I can inspire other people to take action for what they believe in."



Literacy Girl Scout Gold Award Project

Education: Literacy

Partnered with: Muckenthaller and Associates, Garfield Elementary School, THINK Together

Juliana Resong

Northwest Region: Los Alamitos/Rossmoor Service Unit, Troop 863
Girl Scout Ambassador, Cornelia Connelly High School

Juliana choose literacy because she loves to read and believes that it is very important to success in life since reading is a fundamental skill. When children don't learn to read well, they don't do as well in school. Her target audience is TK and Kindergarten students in an inner city school in Long Beach, CA. By providing audio books that children can listen to at home, reading skills can be improved. Juliana's initial target was one school, but the project can be expanded to several schools that utilize the same books as well as online access to anyone.

"As I went through the different development portions of my project, I learned that coordination is very important in completing any project. Other people are a great resource and being able to coordinate their talents was very useful in completing my project. I learned to push through obstacles and utilize my relationships with people from many different fields, to help me succeed."



Healthy Habits for Special Kids

Disability: Disability and Special Needs Issues

Partnered with: Niguel Hills Middle School

Amanda Roark

South Coast Region: Aliso Viejo Service Unit, Troop 1201
Girl Scout Ambassador, Dana Hills High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Saddleback Community College/Technological Advisor

I chose this project because during my middle school years when I volunteered in special education classes I noticed that this was a very big issue to the students so after I become a high school student I returned and offered my help. The result was amazing, the students not only retained information but were also able to explain it. The students were able to enjoy a happy and healthy life like I had, and I was so happy for them.

"I have always been a shy person. This project really helped me come out of my shell and helped me to blossom into the leader that I am today. This passion of mine will hopefully help the students and future students as well as future generations so that they may all live a happy and healthy life as I always did."



LHHS Habitat for Humanity Club

Poverty: Affordable Housing

Partnered with: Habitat for Humanity

Sophie Roberts

South County Region: Oso Valley Service Unit, Troop 1349

Girl Scout Ambassador, Laguna Hills High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Purdue University (Engineering)/Work for NASA

Sophie chose this project because my cousin was in a Habitat for Humanity Club and I thought it was really cool what they did. Habitat for Humanity addresses the problem of poverty for families who work but still can't afford a decent house on top of everything else their family needs. Habitat for Humanity is a huge nonprofit organization that works around the world, but as of right now our club is only help locally to advocate for it and help build homes. Sophie's project will continue with a new President every year.

"As I worked hard to get this club up and going by making phone calls, emails and meetings I learned a lot about myself. I have never worked on something so important or time consuming before and really learned how to communicate not only with my peers, but also with local adults and the community. Earning my Gold Award will really help me in the future and helped me become a better person."



Tasha Lee: Living with Food Allergies

Health: Nutrition

Partnered with: FARE

Katie Robinson

South Coast Region: Niguel Coast Service Unit, Girl Scout Independent

Girl Scout Ambassador, Aliso Niguel High School

Katie created, produced, and distributed her video about what it's like to live with food allergies. She chose this project because one of her closest friends has severe food allergies and she wanted to raise awareness. Her target audience was essentially everyone, but especially people who are responsible for kids or who serve food to people. To tackle this project, she developed a timeline, identified a target audience, and found people to advise her on content and help film and edit. Katie sent it out to school nurses, theaters, airlines, and restaurants who can use it to educate their staff.

"As I led my team in filming and editing, I learned to have more confidence in giving direction. I learned that I am more capable than I think I am, and that I can trust myself. This project reminded me of my passion for editing videos, and has furthered my desire to raise awareness of allergies and keep my friend and all people living with severe food allergies safe."



The CPR Club

Education

Partnered with: American Heart Association

Amelia Rumsey

Northeast Region: Santiago Creek Service Unit, Troop 915

Girl Scout Ambassador, Orange Lutheran High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Concordia University, Irvine (Communications)/Teacher in Christian Missions Field

Amelia developed a program at Orange Lutheran High School that provides accessible and affordable CPR certification courses and provides an opportunity for interested students to become aware of emergency protocol. Not only did the 17 students who participated in the club and class grow from this literal lifesaving skill, but endangered pedestrians, both loved ones and bystanders, are in a less dangerous situation because of the student who has the proper skills to potentially rescue them. CPR skills in students are able to make an impact globally: wherever they go, the knowledge on how to save a life follows.

"Taking a big idea and making it a reality is difficult, even for the boldest of leaders. Diligence, flexibility, and selflessness are vital qualities to leadership, and I struggled to develop this through the Gold Award journey, but my project flourished because of my challenges. My passionate for equipping students with the knowledge to resuscitate a human allowed the plan to bloom into an ongoing club, and inspired others to step into the same passions."



Kids Caring for Our Community

Children's Issues: Mentoring

Partnered with: Boys and Girls Club of Cypress

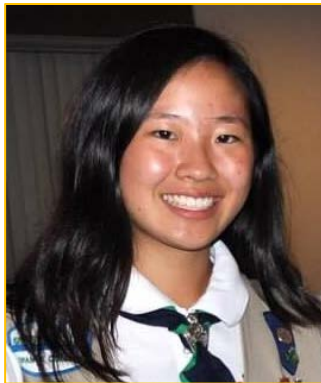
Kristi Ryono

Northwest Region: Anaheim Service Unit, Troop 881 Wisteria

Girl Scout Ambassador, John F. Kennedy High School

Kristi created her Caring Cougars club at King Elementary School to share her love of service to young students. Along with high school volunteers, she visited the school every month to work on a project that addressed a certain target issue found in the community. Activities ranged from creating t-shirt dog toys to making placemats for hospital patients. She also created a PowerPoint that contains background information on the target issue and has outlined directions for each activity. By offering a wide range of projects, Kristi was able to educate and inspire students to make a difference on their own.

"Seeing the smiles on the students' faces every time I walked onto the campus proved that all of the hard work and effort spent on my project definitely paid off. Earning my Gold Award tested my perseverance, but at the same time, it helped me realize I am capable of a lot more than I thought I was."



Huntington's Helping Hands

Civic Engagement: Community Development

Partnered with: Get Inspired! Inc.

Jessica Sakamoto

Northwest Region: Anaheim Service Unit, Troop 881 Wisteria

Girl Scout Ambassador, Huntington Beach High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Engineer

Jessica created the Huntington's Helping Hands club after noticing that many students at the Huntington Beach High school would be willing to volunteer to help others but did not know how. She was inspired to act because other school organizations for community service excluded people with their strict requirements, and they often did not teach the meaning of service. Her club engages in discussions, service projects, and volunteering events to explore ways they can make a difference for people in need, working with various local organizations each year and instilling a concern for others in each club member.

"Through planning club meetings and contacting the various community organizations we worked with, I learned how to lead a team of my peers and coordinate plans with others. This project not only developed my organizational and communication skills, but also made me realize how my love for helping others can extend to spreading that passion to people around me."



Senior Scam Awareness

Elderly Issues/Civic Engagement: Community Development

Partnered with: Orange County Sheriff's Department

Jessica Sardina

Northeast Region: Yorba Linda East Service Unit, Troop 879

Girl Scout Ambassador

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: History Teacher

Jessie worked with the OC Sheriff's Department and SOAR Office on Aging to present an activity- and food-filled seminar for elderly that would inform them about current scams happening around Yorba Linda, what to look for, and how to avoid being scammed. After that, she composed a video, again with the help of Kara Boyd with the OC Sheriff's Department, of acted out scams and advice for senior, which could be played at various locations over and over again for several elderly groups.

"Earning my Gold Award showed me how much more I was capable of than I could have ever believed. I pushed my comfort zones in talking and leading people, and I learned so much about the value of listening. Working with the elderly is a truly humbling experience as with allowed me to understand a point of view different than my own and treat people as I wish to be treated when I get older."



From Barriers to Bridges – Overcoming Animosity and Strengthening Relationships

*Civic Engagement/Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Community Development/Cultural Awareness
Partnered with: Islamic Center of Irvine*

Maaryah Sattar

South Coast Region: South Irvine Service Unit, Troop 49
Girl Scout Ambassador, University High School

The rise in Islamophobia, negative media portrayal and lack of knowledge has contributed to an issue of immense magnitude spanning communities around the globe. Maaryah created and launched the OC Unity Now! Initiative which has provided a platform for the community to meet with people of varying backgrounds and work to achieve a common goal. The different service events have helped strengthen relations in the community by emphasizing shared values and service to others. Maaryah's project has helped to foster unity among people of various faiths and backgrounds in OC and has succeeded in bringing individuals together to promote understanding.

"This project has taught me about coordinating with different organizations and people in different ways. I learned how to create a Facebook account, post, and stay organized. I learned to take a leadership role as people would look to me to make decisions. It also taught me that it takes time and effort to undertake such a project but when you start to see the results it's empowering and easy not to give up."



Healthy Eating for Teenagers

*Health: Nutrition
Partnered with: Marina High School*

Marjorie Schlegel

Central Region: Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 327
Girl Scout Ambassador, Marina High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Orange Coast College (Accounting)

Marjorie noticed teenagers did not know how to cook healthy meals at home and about food issues such as food miles and food waste. She created a culinary arts club at school, had a booth at a food fair, and met with other Girl Scouts to target teenagers at her school and in her community, since making healthy eating choices to combat health issues is a global concern. She created and distributed recipe books and food topic pamphlets, created posters, a blog about her project and two recipe YouTube videos, and passed on her materials to her club.

"My Gold Award has taught me that I can accomplish anything, such as leading club meetings, organizing events, connecting with others in my community, making fun activities, and using technology to spread my project. As my project unfolded, I learned to become more confident and to reach outside my comfort zone. Through my project, I have become more inspired to share my community service passions with others in making the world a better place."



Practical Ways to Reduce the Carbon Footprint

*Environment and Sustainability: Preserving Outdoor Spaces
Partnered with: Laguna Canyon Foundation*

Aparna Sharma

South Coast Region: Aliso Viejo Service Unit, Troop 734
Girl Scout Ambassador, Aliso Niguel High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Berkeley/Environmental Engineer

I chose this project because I have a genuine interest in the environment and wanted to make a difference in educating those around me about the effects we as humans have on the environment. My target audience was children of all ages spanning from elementary to high school students. I lead hikes and developed a curriculum that would track the reducing of your effect on the environment in tangible ways. The Laguna Canyon Foundation implemented my curriculum into their yearly schedule and I plan to hand off my club to a younger member when I graduate.

"By taking on such a massive issue as the environment, my passion led me to think of a way that I could attack this cause at the source: the spreading of knowledge. Most people are uneducated and stubborn against change but by showing them small lifestyle changes that can have a huge positive impact on the environment, it would lead to major changes."



Spreading Awareness on Human Trafficking

Human Rights: Human Trafficking

Partnered with: UNICEF USA

Madhulika Shastry

South Coast Region: North Irvine Service Unit, Troop 1214

Girl Scout Ambassador, Northwood High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Research Psychologist

Madhulika created this project to raise awareness on human trafficking, a crime that many people think only affects third world countries on not their local communities. Because Orange County plays a huge role in trafficking, Madhulika decided to educate her fellow high school students. She collaborated with her school's Break the Silence club and UNICEF USA organization to expand her scope of topics. She spoke to over seventy five students and parents throughout the week. Madhulika organized a binder with her documents to explain how her project can be made into an annual school event, demonstrating sustainability.

"Throughout the process of earning my Girl Scout Gold Award, I learned how passion for something can really drive one to put in all their effort into their work. I met people who inspired me to keep advocating and sharing knowledge, traits that make leaders strong and captivating. Finding out how prevalent trafficking is has led me to continue working with different United Nations organizations, all the while strengthening my interpersonal, time-management, and communication skills."



Audiobooks for Early and English Language Readers

Education: Literacy

Partnered with: Irvine Unified School District

Tessa Shimizu

Northwest Region: Anaheim Service Unit, Troop 881 Wisteria

Girl Scout Ambassador, Woodbridge High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Lawyer

Tessa assisted students to become more proficient in English literacy. The level of difficulty that is associated with learning how to read and write in a new language is a barrier that presented itself to students who are English Language Learners. To assist students that needed extra help, Tessa created an online audiobook that is accessible to Irvine Unified School District students. These audiobooks provided students a guideline to audial literacy and speaking proficiency. Tessa taught school directors and teachers how to replicate the process of creating such helpful audiobooks to continue helping English Language Learners gain confidence in their ability to speak, read, and write in English.

"While working with English Language Learners to strengthen their understanding of literacy, I developed stronger communication and people skills as I analyzed the best educational method to be utilized. Earning my Gold Award enabled me to see students thrive and gain confidence in their own abilities; I am empowered to continue spreading my love of reading and writing."



Piper the Penguin

Children's Issues/Healthy Relationships: Bullying

Partnered with: IPSF and Irvine Unified High School District

Victoria Shute

South Coast Region: North Irvine Service Unit, Troop 1425

Girl Scout Ambassador, Northwood High School

Victoria recognized the huge problem that bullying is in our society but felt the need to educate the youngest children on the issue. Her children's book discusses bullying in simple terms young kids can understand and relate to. She worked with a team of teachers and educators to help read her book to classes all over Southern California. She personally read and discussed her book with first grade classes in the Irvine School District and helped open the discussion on bullying. Her book is now in several classrooms and is available to order on Amazon.com.

"Through my Gold Award I have gained public speaking skills, better time management and organization, and a sense of confidence in what I do. This experience has shown me that I am truly able to make a difference and I hope to continue doing so in the future. I am so proud of my book and what it has done for the community."



Empower Children

Education/Children's Issues: Mentoring

Partnered with: Boys and Girls Club of Irvine and Tustin, CA

Ritu Sidgal

South Coast Region: South Irvine Service Unit, Troop 864

Girl Scout Ambassador, Irvine High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Los Angeles/Health Care Professional

Ritu created a theme based program to empower young children through education for the children of Boys and Girls Club of Irvine and Tustin in California. Ritu was inspired to make a difference in today's young kids by implementing a flexible, and engaging curriculum to help children adapt a quality lifestyle through solidifying valuable skills including: leadership, public speaking, effective communication, fitness, healthy eating and creativity. With continuous execution of this program alongside project teammates and the agency staff, the program will remain sustainable and scalable.

"By working with children and guiding them through the theme activities, I acquired many skills including patience, problem solving, effective communication, and teamwork. Most importantly, I realized the importance of being a role model, as my actions serve as a precedent action of younger children. I hope my project provides a strong platform to advocate the importance of education by inspiring children to aspire for greatness."



Heart4ART

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Performing Arts

Partnered with: Arts OC, Imagination celebration, and Richter Ballet Arts

Rachel Soltesz

South Coast Region: Aliso Viejo Service Unit, Troop 1234

Girl Scout Ambassador, Homeschooled

Being a ballerina herself, Rachel has always had a passion and love for the performing arts. However, she has noticed that the exposure to these art forms have started to fade and many children now a days have never experienced it or not have had the chance due to being underprivileged. So, Rachel decided to make a change in her community and create a free, open to public, annual event called Heart4ART. With the help of ArtsOC, Imagination Celebration, and Richter Ballet Arts, she was able to successfully make a change in her community.

"Throughout the process of completing Heart4ART, I was able to grow as a leader and as a person. I learned organizational skills, management skills, and how to build a positive and cohesive working team. By earning my Gold Award, I was able to see the large impact I had on my community, so I want to continue to grow and introduce the different performing arts to the new generations of children."



Step Up and Give Back

Civic Engagement: Community Development

Partnered with: Esperanza High School, BCLC, MDA, Animal Shelter, American Red Cross, Mili

Jane Sommers

Northeast Region: Yorba Linda West Service Unit, Troop 1767

Girl Scout Ambassador, Esperanza High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Business Owner

Jane felt that teenagers were not aware of issues and charities in need in their area. Her focus was to introduce opportunities to give back and volunteer in the community. Each month, a new charitable organization was introduced at Esperanza High School. Students were invited to volunteer or donate needed items to the organizations. 164 students got involved, 976 volunteer total volunteer hours, and over 42,000 items donated. Jane feels that this effort has impacted many people and has impacted students who participated. The high school students who volunteered will want to continue to Step Up and Give Back.

"I've learned that I have a voice and have a direct impact on my community. This experience has shown me that one person can make change. Social Media can help to make a difference. Teenagers spend so much time on their phones. Spreading the word about an event to make change was so impactful. I was so happy with the student turnout. I will, going forward, know that a passion for making change is impactful."



How to Use Your Cellphone

Elderly Issues: Senior Centers

Partnered with: Palm Island Senior Center

Abigail Tac

Central Region: Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1279 Lien Doan Chi Lang

Girl Scout Ambassador, Los Amigos High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: UCI/UCLA/CSULB/Pediatrician

Abigail chose this project because older people have difficult time using their smartphones, so she decided she wanted to do something about it. Her target was the seniors at Palms Island Senior Center. She believed her project could close the cultural gap between older and younger generations in our community when they use social media applications on their mobile devices to have discussions. Abigail's volunteer is Paul Le, who has attended several workshops and have met the young volunteers, to continue to support the workshop. She has provided all workshop materials and contact information for his reference.

"I have learned to be patience throughout the project, which is important to work with senior citizens who are adopting new technology and learning new skills. I have to take time to explain how to do things in different ways so that they can understand and have time to take notes. I have developed leadership skills to communicate with a team of volunteers and to organize them to provide valuable workshop experiences for the seniors."



My Street My Ocean

Environment and Sustainability: Clean Water

Partnered with: City of San Clemente/Cynthia Mallett

Kasey Tarnow

South Coast Region: San Clemente Service Unit, Troop 1510

Girl Scout Ambassador, San Clemente High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Saddleback College (Early Childhood Development)/Preschool Teacher

Kasey chose this project to keep the ocean waters of San Clemente clean. One parked car in front of the sweeper means that 3 parking spots do not get cleaned. By getting sweeping reminders it makes it easy to remember to move your car. With Kasey efforts she increased the number of weekly sign ups by over 400%. Her slogan, "My Street My Ocean", will continue to be promoted by school clubs, Real Estate Agents, and the Watershed Task Force. They all have embraced her idea and are working to educate the residents of San Clemente about the program.

"I have learned to never give up. Even when it seems like you are not going to make it, if you keep moving forward, you will eventually finish. Doing a little each day makes it easier to reach your goal. I now realize that I can speak in front of large groups as long as I prepare myself and stay organized. When I try, I can make a BIG difference."



Preventing Childhood Lead Poisoning

Health: Diseases

Partnered with: Childhood Prevention Program

Emily Tran

Central Region: Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 515 Lien Doan Lac Viet

Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Azusa Pacific University (Nursing)

Emily's project addressed the issue of lead poisoning by spreading awareness in the Vietnamese community. Through her project, she hoped to raise awareness in the Vietnamese community by providing educational workshops regarding lead poisoning. By the end of her workshops, she hopes that the Vietnamese people have learned about lead poisoning and its symptoms and spread the words to their fellow co-workers, family members, and friends. The main objective is to get more Vietnamese people to gain knowledge about lead poisoning.

"Throughout my project, I was able to advocate the dangers of lead poisoning and ways to prevent it. I was also able to learn the valuable life skills of responsibility and leadership. Earning my Gold Award showed me that I am able to make a difference in the community and encourage citizens to also take part in my movement."



Literacy for the Win

Children's Issues: Mentoring

Partnered with: Girls Inc.

Dharaa Upadhyaya

Northeast Region: Yorba Linda West Service Unit, Troop 1227

Girl Scout Ambassador, Valencia High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California Berkeley (Public Health)/Health Professional

Dharaa's project addressed literacy and English language fluency. Dharaa reached elementary and middle school kids in areas where English language fluency is an issue with resources to improve reading comprehension. For her project, she reached out to elementary schools in the Newport Mesa School District in South Orange County. She then collected over 500 books for a mobile library and created other literacy resources to help foster English language fluency and reading comprehension among students in the Girls Inc. Scholars lab after school program. She allocated a specific day for literacy training and compiled book lists for each grade level.

"English literacy and language fluency is not perfect in any country, including the US. By starting with younger students at an age that is crucial for reading success, I hope to increase the level of national English language fluency in my community. Local success is the first step towards national success."



Eat Right and Get Fit Project

Health: Fitness

Partnered with: Boys and Girls Club of Capistrano Valley

Julianne Wilde

South Coast Region: Niguel Coast Service Unit, Troop 1579

Girl Scout Ambassador, Dana Hills High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Film/Video Production

Julianne recognized children spend more time in front of a screen and less time being active. After researching, she found that half of adults in the U.S. will be obese by 2030 and Hispanic populations in Orange County have the second highest obesity prevalence; San Juan Capistrano, the community she served, is one-third Hispanic. To educate youth on healthy habits, she implemented basketball and nutrition clinics at the Boys and Girls Club where she saw increasing numbers of kids and returners attending each clinic. She arranged with the Club to implement the clinics into their curriculum for future uses.

"From my project, I have learned that organization and communication are key. I organized and kept a binder during the project, which I would bring with me to each clinic that included all the necessary documents to run the health clinics. This project has sparked a passion for organization - I now use my planner all the time and write everything down."



Chrome 6 Makes a Bad Neighbor!

Environment and Sustainability: Pollution

Partnered with: AQMD

Mikayla Winfery

Central Coast Region: West Garden Service Unit, Troop 2390

Girl Scout Ambassador, Garden Grove High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Golden West College

Mikayla created communal awareness of chrome 6's disastrous effects on those who are exposed to the known human carcinogen through pamphlets, giving a speech, and leading a walk to inspire others to ask questions and get involved themselves. She discussed the examples of Hinkley and Paramount California as viable examples of what can happen if a community is unaware of the toxins around them and how it can lead to various physical damages that can be passed down.

"Seeing how shocked others were to learn about chrome 6 affirmed that I am not the only one who was frightened to hear about all the damage that it does to communities and their health. It also made me realize that not enough awareness surrounds those who create the deadly chemical or the long-term effects of those who are exposed."



Music for Happiness

Elderly Issues: Senior Centers

Partnered with: Terrace View Rehabilitation Homes

Edwina Xiong

Northwest Region: Fullerton/La Habra Service Unit, Troop 394 Sovereign

Girl Scout Ambassador, Troy High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Business Analyst; Executive Officer

As a violist, music has made a large impact on my life, so I wanted to share it with individuals who cannot readily access live music. I've also seen lots of media coverage on the adverse effects of loneliness on senior mental health, so I decided to bring music to seniors. My project focused on the Fullerton region, but the process has been shared to a Facebook page, which will hopefully create a butterfly effect and influence other musicians to do the same. After I leave, the next tri-m president will organize the seasonal concerts.

"While working with other young artists in the community, I developed organizational skills and learned how to effectively influence others in a positive manner. This project showed me that I possess the necessary skills to lead a group successfully. From this experience, I hope to continue performing for those who cannot readily access live music."



Why We Relay

Health: Diseases

Partnered with: American Cancer Society, Relay for Life

Allyson Yamasaki

Northeast Region: Anaheim Hills Service Unit, Troop 1171

Girl Scout Ambassador, Canyon High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Irvine (Computer Science)

While volunteering at a Relay for Life cancer awareness event, Allyson noticed that visitors did not stop at each booth because they were too occupied with walking the track with listening to their music. Allyson created a web-based platform to be used on personal devices so team members can share their mission statement whether it is why they are fighting cancer or another experience that connects them to Relay for Life. While walking, event goers can use the app at any time to listen to relay stories creating awareness for cancer and unity.

"Working on my gold award project has given me the opportunity to express myself, learn, and to take ownership in a project. This project exposed me to web and app development and has sparked a new found interest in coding and the world of computer science. I am proud to say I will be attending UC Irvine majoring in Computer Science this fall."



How to Survive Marching Band 101

Children's Issues/Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Mentoring/Music

Partnered with: John F. Kennedy High School

Kayla Yasuda

Northwest Region: Anaheim Service Unit, Troop 881 Wisteria

Girl Scout Ambassador, John F. Kennedy High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, San Diego/Occupational Therapy

Kayla held mentor classes for incoming 9th grade band students to inform and prepare them for the rigorous physical activity of marching band. She chose this project because she saw that freshmen in her high school marching band lacked proper knowledge and therefore experienced dehydration, heat stroke and other injuries. By educating these young students, she intended to reduce this number of injuries, as well as promote a healthy lifestyle to younger generations. In addition, Kayla recruited two underclassmen band members to shadow her throughout the entire project so that it will be sustained the following years.

"While teaching my younger peers about the importance health and fitness, I learned how to problem solve and manage time wisely. This experience also allowed me to develop my communication skills with people of all ages. Earning my Gold Award has showed me that one person can make a large impact on many others. I am truly inspired to continue to give back to my community and be a positive role model for my peers."



The Wellness Project

Health: Global Health

Partnered with: Canvasback Missions, Inc.

Katie Yau

Northeast Region: Anaheim Hills Service Unit, Troop 1171

Girl Scout Ambassador, Canyon High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Sports Medicine Doctor

Katie created her Wellness Project program to promote the importance of health education for children in areas stricken with health-related diseases. She was inspired by her father's medical mission trips to the Marshall Islands and her interest in diet and nutrition. To tackle this project, Katie made a curriculum and included a detailed lesson plan for each session. She supplied the Wellness Center with a collection of children's health books and exercise equipment. One hundred kindergartners were able to participate in this program held at an elementary school in Majuro. The Wellness Center staff will continue to implement the program.

"Through this project, I have become a creative and resourceful problem solver. I overcame obstacles of an overseas project by diligently communicating through emails and phone calls with my advisor. My experience from this project has made me more persevering and courageous. I see the results of my hard work and realize that my efforts have truly paid off. I feel empowered to take on more complicated projects on a global scale in the future."



Plant Propagation

Environment and Sustainability: Preserving Outdoor Spaces

Partnered with: Santa Ana Zoo

Katherine Zerbst

Northeast Region: Orange Villa Service Unit, Troop 3150

Girl Scout Ambassador, Canyon High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Santiago Canyon College/Forensic Scientist

Katherine chose this project because she took an interest in gardening when she did her Girl Scout Silver Award project, and the global issue she addresses is plant propagation and conservation. She hopes it reaches out to the zoo visitors and makes learning about the plants fun. Katherine wishes that the exhibit at the zoo will make the visitors want to start gardening at home and respect the importance of plant propagation. She designed a permanent exhibit and educational brochure at the Santa Ana Zoo, and it will continue on by the help of the zoo employees and master gardeners.

"I learned that leadership is about being bold and trying something new. Even if it's unfamiliar or uncomfortable at the start, just take the first steps, and exciting and interesting things will follow. It's not always perfect, but it doesn't have to be. Have fun with it, follow through, and you can't go wrong."



ASL Storytimes

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Cultural Awareness

Partnered with: Huntington Beach Public Library

Michelle Zernick

Central Coast Region: HB Pierside Service Unit, Girl Scout Independent

Girl Scout Ambassador, Edison High School

Future Aspiration/Career Goal: California State University, Long Beach (Psychology)/
Clinical Psychologist

Michelle implemented aspects of American Sign Language into Storytimes to spread awareness of Deaf culture. Her website aimed to create an interest in ASL that people would carry into their future, while also offering current ASL students a convenient study tool. This required Michelle having a background in ASL and a team with ASL knowledge. Her team of ASL students, teachers, librarians, and student editors worked to film ASL stories and create an informational website. Her website and Storytimes, which will be continued through her High School, has spread cultural awareness and inspires others to integrate ASL into their future.

"Completing this project taught me that I can inspire others to accept one another. With the confidence, this project gave me I can see that my leadership skills will continue to grow in the areas of my interactions with people who are older or younger than me. My Gold Award shows that I will continue to work with organizations to better the community and spread Deaf Culture Awareness."

2017 National Young Woman of Distinction

Girl Scouts of Orange County is proud to recognize Placentia Girl Scout Ambassador Sharleen Loh who selected as one of ten 2017 National Young Women of Distinction for her Girl Scout Gold Award project, "STEMup4Youth."



For her Gold Award project, Sharleen initiated the first-ever STEM program at a local Boys and Girls Club targeted at after-school programs for underserved children. Her goal was to ignite the kids' natural desires to learn and discover, by designing STEM curricula including fun, hands-on activities.

To do this, Sharleen partnered with over 40 different organizations, including six Boys and Girls Clubs, over 20 county and city libraries/bookmobiles, three Title I elementary schools, California State University, World Vision, the county fair, children's festivals, STEM expos, and a children's learning center.

To date, Sharleen has developed over 100 hands-on STEM activities and mobilized over 140 volunteers from 15 different schools to bring weekly STEM programs to underserved children. She has built an organization, STEMup4Youth, which now has more than 40 partners around Southern California, reaching out to over 5,000 children and engaging more than 140 volunteers from 10 local schools. Extraordinary!

"We are excited that Sharleen has been recognized as a 2017 National Young Woman of Distinction. Sharleen exemplifies the lasting positive impact that Girl Scouts are having on their communities throughout Orange County,"

- Nancy Nygren, CEO, Girl Scouts of Orange County

This G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)[™] is a STEM rock star! Girl Scouts of Orange County is proud of Sharleen and her accomplishments. Through her work, the lives of so many of children will be forever changed.



(Pictured above) Sharleen Loh, 4th from left, with 10 2017 National Young Women of Distinction and Girl Scouts of the USA CEO Sylvia Acevedo. (Photo Courtesy of GSUSA)



“THANK YOU to all the parents, Troop Leaders, Troop/Group Volunteers, and Project Advisors for your dedicated support as we continue to build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.”



**Special Thanks to the Girl Scouts of Orange County
Girl Scout Gold Award Support Team**

Karin Carlson

Gold Award Support Team Chair

Gold Award Liaisons

Katie Casey-Anderson

Ann Crane

Barb Christensen

Siobhan Hickey

Lisa Hinshaw

Lisa Johnson

Mel Little

Addy Lerner

Jane McCormick

Sue Mundi

Deborah Oldewage

Sloane Petrillo

Dianna Sundell

Council Staff

Candice Bui

Lesley Finch



Girl Scouts of Orange County Thanks

LiveShoot-1 Professional Photography

www.liveshoot1.com

Girl Scouts of Orange County 2017 Silver Award Girl Scouts



Congratulations to more than 550 OC Silver Award Girl Scouts! The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting for Girl Scout Cadettes in grades 6-9.

Each Silver Award Girl Scout develops a Take Action project to help improve her community and the world, and demonstrates that she is a leader who is organized, determined, and dedicated to contributing to the community in purposeful and meaningful ways.

The Girl Scout Silver Award is approved by volunteers who have been trained to support girls in developing a Take Action project befitting the standards of the award. The listing below represents more than 325 girls who submitted their names between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017.

Northwest Region

Brea Troop 172

Lauren Elsenpeter

Cougar Closet

Children's Issues/Sports: Underprivileged Kids
Created an on-campus closet at Brea Country Hills Elementary School to provide school supplies, backpacks, socks, shoes, and sweats for low income students.

Brea Troop 767

Kathryn Foyt

Pathways

Children's Issues: Infant Care
Worked and collected diapers for underprivileged children through pathways program.

Brea Troop 767

Kristen Biederstadt, Jenna Martinez

Homeless Children

Children's Issues: Foster Care
Raised awareness of and collected and donated supplies for local children's shelter.

Brea Troop 767

Vanessa Flores

Pet Responsibility

Animals: Animal Adoption
Collected supplies and created a handout with information about how to care for your pet for people adopting animals.

Brea Troop 767

Rylie Slaughter

Autism Awareness

Education/Health: Mental Health
Created information to educate the public about autism including an Instagram page.

Brea Troop 2375

Danielle Eby

Boy Scout Olympics

Sports/Health: Fitness
Created and executed a plan to bring the Olympics to the Boy Scouts.

Brea Troop 2375

Zoe Tschumper

Healthy Relationships

Healthy Relationships
Developed an education program with Human Options to teach middle school kids about the signs of unhealthy relationships and how to have healthy relationships.

Fullerton/La Habra Troop 101

Isabella Cirrito

H.E.A.R.T. (Homeless Engagement Awareness Response Team)

Poverty: Homelessness
Created 150 H.E.A.R.T. Packs with essential hygiene products and food to be distributed by officers from the Fullerton Police Department.



Fullerton/La Habra Troop 183

**Cami Acheson, Jenna Beining,
Aimee Park**

Tutoring Program at Sunset Lane Elementary School

Education/Children's Issues: Mentoring

Provided a six month homework/tutoring time for the students in need at Sunset Lane Elementary School.

Fullerton/La Habra Troop 2830

**Ava Carlson, Gema Granado, Macey
Lendrum, Cassidy Mullens, Sarah Percy**
"Be You" Mural

Arts, Culture, and Heritage

Created an inspiring Tile Wall Mural, themed "Be You", inclusive to all 6th graders at Rolling Hills Elementary School.



Fullerton/La Habra Troop 3357

**Zubaida Katbi, Zaina Nasr, Yasmeen
Serhal**

Open Mosque Day

Education/Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Cultural Awareness

Established an annual event to build friendships, break stereotypes, and educate the public about the religion of Islam.

La Cypress Park Troop 16

Moira Clark

Spectacled Owl Enclosure Mural

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Visual Arts

Taught art workshops and designed and painted a new mural for the spectacled owl enclosure at the Santa Ana Zoo



La Cypress Park Troop 89

Amaya Aldrich, Sophie Nessary
Buddy Bench

Children's Issues: Mentoring

Wrote and directed a video on how to use a buddy bench they built and donated to St. Jeanne de Lestonnoc School.

Anaheim Troop 675

Erin Hayashida

Caring with Art

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Visual Arts

Raised awareness of the importance of art along with creating memories.

Anaheim Troop 675

Kaitlyn Ho, Sydney Tomooka

Motor & Sensory Centers

Children's Issues: Mentoring

Worked with Apple Tree Early Intervention Center to create brochures and develop activities to help children with growth and sensory motor issues.

Anaheim Troop 675

Tristyn Yuki

Pet Safety Awareness

Animals: Animal Safety

Worked with animal shelters, pet stores and veterinarian offices to distribute educational flyers and materials they created on the importance of having your pet micro-chipped.

Anaheim Troop 675

Ashley Omiya

De-stressing Through Art

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Art

Taught an art class and worked with The Sheepfold to provide care packages, supplies, and art instruction for battered women/children.

Anaheim Troop 675

Kristin Suzuki

Upcycling / Environmental Awareness

Environment and Sustainability: Pollution

Created upcycled bags from donated t-shirts and educated the public about the environmental benefits of using reusable shopping bags.

Anaheim Troop 675

Kaitlyn Ishibashi

Beach Pollution Awareness

Environment and Sustainability: Pollution

Set up a booth at Bolsa Chica State Beach to educate people about beach pollution and urban runoff and organized two beach clean-ups.

Anaheim Troop 675

Emily Sarashina

Japanese Culture and Heritage

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Cultural

Awareness/Historic Preservation

Set up a booth at a Japanese Festival to educate people about the history of Obon (a Japanese religious tradition honoring ancestors) and created a mobile book cart with educational Japanese books.

Anaheim Troop 675

Annie Nakamura

The Importance of Music

Arts, Culutre, and Heritage/Education:

Music/Mentoring

Created a one day workshop for preschool aged children where they will be exposed to different aspects of music - note value, solfege, making an instrument and basic music skills.

Anaheim Troop 675

Alyssa Yang

Families Forward Reading is Fundamental

Education: Literacy

Created coloring books, informational flyers, and a suggested reading list for grades K-8th and educated families in transitional housing about the importance of reading.

Anaheim Troop 3408

Jana Hassan

Relief Refugee Month

Disaster Relief/Human Rights: Immigration

Held a food/toy drive and made a meal for refugees during the month of Ramadan.

Los Alamitos/Rossmoor Troop 121

Madelyn Lopez, Rory Lowdermilk, Emily Smith, Jynel Zeitz

Precious Life Shelter

Children's Issues: Infant Care

Hosted a baby shower for expectant mothers and worked to sort and gather baby clothes, collect supplies, make knotted quilts, and purchase holiday dinner items and decorations for women, children, and babies at the Precious Life Shelter in Los Alamitos.

Los Alamitos/Rossmoor Troop 1695

Emma Collins, Katherine McIntosh

Safety in Los Alamitos

Public Safety: Traffic Safety

Prepared a safety video for kids, created "Safe Zones" at local businesses and presented the project at District schools.

Northeast Region

Placentia Troop 2836

Shaina Costanzo, Abigail Vaughn

Junior High Peer Help Group

Children's Issues: Mentoring

Created a peer group that allows junior high students to speak with trained peer ambassadors and staff to discuss private issues that may be troubling them.

Yorba Linda West Troop 2

Kylie Toblesky, Addy White

Raised Garden Bed for those with Dementia

Elderly Issues: Dementia

Created a raised vegetable garden for residents with dementia living in an assisted living facility.

Yorba Linda West Troop 694

Emily Thomas

What Trash Does to the Environment

Animals: Animal Safety

Increased awareness of and created an educational website about the impact of trash on our environment and animals.

Yorba Linda West Troop 727

Haley Laitinen, Jenna Salley

Blankets for Ecuador

Health: Hygiene

Made blankets and sanitary kits for girls living in poverty in a village in Ecuador.

Yorba Linda West Troop 867

Melissa Vu

Education: Literacy

Organized used book drive, made a bookcase, and set up an reading area for a pediatric waiting room in an low income clinic.



Yorba Linda East Troop 574

Kassidy Fong

Megan Iida

Emily Kraack

Yorba Linda East Troop 574

Lauren Kim

Education: Literacy

Held a book drive for local elementary school.

Yorba Linda East Troop 1175

Haley Yoon

Helping Single Moms and Children in Need

Children's Issues

Visited single mom's shelter, doing fun, educational activities with children there.

Yorba Linda East Troop 1175

Peyton Kim

Somewhere Over The Rainbow: Helping Those In Need

Arts, Culture, and Heritage/Children's Issues:
Performing Arts/Visual Arts/Mentoring
Taught art & dance and provided tutoring for abused women and children.

Yorba Linda East Troop 1175

Eileen Kwon

Somewhere Over the Rainbow: Helping Those in Need

Children's Issues/Health: Mentoring/Self-Esteem
Provided support and encouragement for single moms and children by collecting gently used clothes, toys and books and tutoring, doing crafts and teaching skills (art, dance & instruments).

Yorba Linda East Troop 1222

Hayley Beck

Help for Red Bucket Rescue

Animals: Animal Rights, Animal Adoption
Completed orientation to volunteer with Red Bucket Equine Rescue and donated feed and salt supplies.

Orange Villa Troop 1058

Annie French, Margaret Rocha

Reading is FUNdamental

Education: Literacy
Created a reading center at local low income childcare facility.

Orange Villa Troop 1794

Brooklyn Anthony, Paige Demarest

Project 23

Poverty: Homelessness
Helped set up, served food, and worked to distribute over 400 sweatshirts to homeless and needy people.

Orange Villa Troop 3715

Kaitlyn Ericson

Buddy Bench

Healthy Relationships: Bullying
Built and created a buddy bench and talked to classes about bullying at her elementary school.

Orange Villa Girl Scout Independent

Zoe Lavigne

Education/Children's Issues: Mentoring
Painted a map of the United States on the blacktop at a school & creating a game for students to use to help learn where states and their capitals are located.

Anaheim Hills Troop 2008

Isabella Grisotti

Grants Wishes

Children's Issues/Poverty: Homelessness
Provide blankets for children in need.

Anaheim Hills Troop 2008

Marina Grujic, Anissa Patel

Help Pets

Animals: Animal Adoption
Assisted at pet adoption events and provided needed supplies and toys for adopted pets.

Anaheim Hills Troop 2008

Natalie Ringdahl

Filtered Water Station

Environment and Sustainability: Clean Water
Worked with school administration to install filtered water station for students at El Rancho Charter Middle School.

Anaheim Hills Troop 2008

Heather Eslick

Help Save the Bees!

Animals/Environment and Sustainability: Animal Safety
Planted a garden to help the dwindling population of bees.

Santiago Creek Troop 169

Valerie Cortes, Sofia Rizzuto

Orange Educational Farm

Environment and Sustainability: Farming
Built and painted custom reusable signage for events and educational purposes for farm that focuses on food supply and sustainability.

Santiago Creek Troop 1189

Julia McCormick, Nicole Smith

Book Nook

Children's Issues: Mentoring
Built a bookshelf and collected and donated games and books to Boys Town.

Santiago Creek Troop 1189

Mollie Weir

Give a Book, Take a Book

Education: Literacy
Created a little house filled with books to take/replace to encourage children to read.

Santiago Creek Troop 1189

Dagny Parayao

Central Coast Region

Seal Beach Troop 2131

Melanie Huq, Sarah McNeal, Corissa Pennock, Elizabeth Tsamous

We Care Food Drive

Poverty: Hunger
Organized a food drive at McAuliffe Middle School and collected over 500 pounds of food, enough for over 400 meals for We Care.

West Garden Troop 281

Claire Leeb

Operation Easter Bunny

Children's Issues/Health: Mental Health

Raised awareness about the donation program at CHOC hospital for patients in the hospital during Easter.

West Garden Troop 281

Lauren Power

Toys for Land

Children's Issues

Collected and donated toys, books and costumes to Land School.

West Garden Troop 2390

Ilene Aguilar, Julietta Brito, Natalia Corona, Rachel Jobst

Animals

West Garden Troop 2454 Lien Doan Van Lang

Heidi Tran

Vietnamese Mid-Autumn Children Tet Festival

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Cultural Awareness

Made posters, trivia questions, moon cake sample and prizes at a booth in a community park with other troops, organizations etc.. to teach the youths about the Vietnamese Mid-Autumn (Lunar) Tet festival for the children.

West Garden Troop 3997 Lien Doan Chi Linh

Celine Vuong

Catherine Nguyen

Emmeline Nguyen

West Garden Troop 4194 Lien Doan Truong Son

Christine Tran

Serve the Seniors

Elderly Issues: Seniors Centers

Served seniors at a local nursing home in Orange County.

West Garden Troop 4194 Lien Doan Truong Son

Clara Ly

Together We Rise

Children's Issues: Foster Care

Worked with Together We Rise to collected toys and books for kids.

West Garden Troop 4194 Lien Doan Truong Son

Lindsey Ho

Love for Animals

Animals: Pet Care

Raised awareness of animals in shelters and purchased toys to donate to an animal shelter in OC.

West Garden Troop 4194 Lien Doan Truong Son

Wendy Tran

Beautify The City

Environment and Sustainability: Pollution

Worked with the Public Works of Garden Grove to clean up graffiti in the city.

West Garden Troop 4194 Lien Doan Truong Son

Melody Dang

Canned Food for Homeless Shelter

Poverty: Hunger/Homelessness

Collected canned food to donate to American Family Housing in Orange County.

West Garden Girl Scout Independent

Tiffany Quyanh Dam

Arts, Culture, and Heritage

West Garden Girl Scout Independent

Diane Le

Healthy Relationships

West Garden Girl Scout Independent

Hillary Vy Nguyen

Poverty

West Garden Girl Scout Independent

Megan Nguyen

Elderly Issues

Ocean View Troop 1255 Lien Doan Hung Vuong

Ashley Nguyen

Goodies for Kids

Children's Issues/Health: Diseases

Worked with CHOC Hospital to make and distribute goodie boxes for kids living with sickness.

Ocean View Troop 1255 Lien Doan Hung Vuong

Emily Nguyen

Bookhouse

Education: Literacy

Made a miniature library to place in public areas such as parks to encourage children to read more.

Huntington Harbor Troop 1754

Natalie Gratzner

Colette's Literacy Program

Children's Issues/Education: Mentoring/Literacy

Looked after, read, and did crafts with children.

Huntington Harbor Troop 1982

Whitney Porter

Kira Possigian

Amelia Hofsaess

Sophia Arendt

Scarlett Hart

Danielle Ito

Alyssa Villagonzalo

Huntington Harbor Troop 2042

Allison Potter

Importance of Spaying and Neutering Your Pets

Animals: Pet Care/Animal Adoption

Helped to socialize stray and abandoned cats and kittens at the National Cat Protection Society to prepare them for adoption and made a video about the importance of spaying and neutering pets.



Huntington Harbor Troop 2042

Emilie Kalkus

Sweet Cases

Children's Issues: Foster Care

Worked with her team to provided 47 duffle bags for kids in foster care to be presented with a blanket, teddy bear, hygiene kit, coloring book and crayons by Together We Rise.



Huntington Harbor Troop 2119

Sara Mason, Angelina Solis

Easter Egg Hunt for Homeless Children

Children's Issues/Poverty: Homelessness

Collaborated with Colette's Children organization to organize an Easter Egg hunt for homeless children.

Huntington Harbor Troop 2121

Emma Nguyen

Find Your Local Food Closet/Pantry

Poverty: Hunger

Worked with local food closets to create and distribute a brochure with local locations, days and times for hungry/homeless people.

Huntington Harbor Troop 2121

Kylie Barhart

Woof! Please Clean-up After Your Pet

Animals: Pet Care

Helped to clean up Central Park and get bag stations installed in designated areas to encourage pet owners to keep the park clean.

Huntington Harbor Troop 2121

Kyla Daniels, Emma Radzai

Potty Training your Rescue Dog

Animals: Pet Care/Animal Adoption

Four girls are working with a rescue and their dog training. Worked with a dog trainer to learn to potty train dogs, worked with rescued dogs and made an instructional CD for families who adopt a dog.

Ocean View Troop 1255 Lien Doan Hung Vuong

Beverly Tran

Toy Drive for Red Cross

Children's Issues/Health: Mental Health

Collected stuffed animals for the Red Cross and donated them to children who are sick or need cheering up.

Ocean View Troop 1255 Lien Doan Hung Vuong

Emily Nguyen

Coding

STEM: Science/Technology/Engineering/Math

Taught kids how to code and encouraged them to build something spectacular that could change the world.

Ocean View Troop 1255 Lien Doan Hung Vuong

Vivian Mai

Vietnamese Heritage

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Cultural Awareness

Set up workshop and website explaining how to make a spinning lantern.

Ocean View Troop 1255 Lien Doan Hung Vuong

Jasmine Pham

Ancient Lanterns Collide with Modern Technology

Arts, Culture, and Heritage/STEM: Cultural

Awareness/Technology

Designed an automatic spinning lantern for the Moon Festival and Chinese new year, or "Tet."

Ocean View Troop 1754

Rachel Dakin, Bunny Pendleton,

Lauren Smith, Lynsi Sueki

Colette's Literacy Program

Children's Issues

Read, played games and made crafts with children and provided child care for moms attending life skills seminars.

HB Pierside Troop 378

Mia Lambert

Safety

Public Safety: Traffic Safety

Gave a street safety presentation to preschool children and distributed "kids at play" signs.

HB Pierside Troop 378

Jessica Porras

Teddy Bears

Children's Issues/Health: Mental Health
Worked with a children's hospital to collect and distribute stuffed animals.

HB Pierside Troop 378

Noelle Duffey

Brooke Powers Memorial Library

Children's Issues/Education/Health: Literacy/Mental Health/Diseases

Created a memorial lending library for her school community to remember a former student.



HB Pierside Troop 952

Samantha Burch, Jamie Miller

Animals: Animal Adoption

HB Pierside Troop 952

Jessica Walters

Getting Girls to Graduation

Education

Worked with She's the First to raise awareness and help girls in low income countries become first generation graduates.

HB Pierside Troop 963

Serena Nguyen

Books for life

Arts, Culture, and Heritage

Provided a themed book display case for the Garden Grove Regional Library to increase interest in the children's library summer reading program.

HB Pierside Troop 963

Kira Bui

Run to Fight Human Trafficking

Human Rights: Human Trafficking

Organized a 5k run to raise awareness and fight human trafficking.

HB Pierside Troop 2114

Cassandra Hitch

Paige Yauchzee

HB Pierside Troop 2114

Isabel Sarkissian

Project Strength

Human Rights

HB Pierside Troop 2114

Jenna Gorden

Sport Share

Sports

Placed gently used sports equipment in new homes.

HB Pierside Troop 2114

Emma Chickman

Moffett Kinder Hopscotch

Education

Relocated the hopscotch area on kindergarten blacktop to a spot away from the bike track and taught students how to play.

HB Pierside Girl Scout Independent

Ashley Berdelis

Operation Interdependence

Military/Veterans' Affairs

Collected supplies and packed and sent over 300 care packages full of snacks, personal notes, and goodies to troops through Operation Interdependence.



Surf City Troop 634

Caitlyn O'Rork

Recycling

Environment and Sustainability
Created recycling programs.

Surf City Troop 634

Gabriella Russell

Special Needs

Disability: Disability and Special Needs Issues
Organized a disability awareness workshop.

Surf City Troop 634

Lydon Casella

Animals

Animals: Animal Adoption
Planned to eliminate homeless pets.

Surf City Troop 1818

Amanda Martin

Helping the Local Animal Shelter

Animals
Teamed up with local animal shelter to organize a donation drive of needed supplies.

Surf City Troop 1818

Emma Walker

Protecting our Ocean and Marine Life

Animals/Environment and Sustainability: Animal Rights/Preserving Outdoor Spaces
Volunteered at a marine aquarium to gain knowledge and created an educational video on protecting ocean and marine life.

Surf City Troop 1818

Sasha Shaffer

Making Dog Toys for Local Animal Shelter

Animals: Pet Care
Organized a donation drive to collect old t-shirts & water bottles to make dog toys for her local animal shelter.

Surf City Troop 1818

Leyah Padilla

Self-Defense Workshop

Public Safety/Human Rights/Health: Girls' and Womens' Rights/Self-Esteem
Organized self-defense workshops for girls and women.

Surf City Troop 2126

Sofia Spurgeon

Sustainability for Special Olympics at Village View School

Disability/Disability and Special Needs Issues
Worked with local school to create reusable materials to help improve their Special Olympics.

Surf City Troop 2126

Jillian Reichert, Sloan Smith

Change for Change

Children's Issues: Mentoring
Worked with her local church to set up a permanent scholarship that helps low income families send their children to camp.

Surf City Troop 2126

Kate Terrigno

Pillowcase Dresses

Children's Issues/Poverty/Health: Clothing/Self-Image
Made dresses for children in Africa.

Surf City Troop 2126

Claire Prevratil

Children's Theater Costume Warehouse Improvements

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Performing Arts
Worked to improve the theater including providing racks for the Orange County Children's Theater.

Central Region

Garden Valley Troop 997 Lien Doan Hoa Lu

Jeanie Nguyen

Rookie Reader

Education: Literacy
Encouraged children to learn how to read by setting up bi-weekly sessions at the library including reading sessions with a therapy dog.

Garden Valley Troop 997 Lien Doan Hoa Lu

Jocelyn Ha

Animals Have Hearts Too

Animals: Animal Rights
Educate kids about animal safety and animal rights in order to help prevent future animal abuse and made dog blankets and chew toys to donate to the GreyHound shelter.

Garden Valley Troop 997 Lien Doan Hoa Lu

Jennie Nguyen

Save Our Ocean, Save Our Beach

Environment and Sustainability: Pollution/Preserving Outdoor Spaces
Worked with the Wetland and Wildlife Care Center of Orange County to educate people of beach and ocean pollution that negatively impacts the earth and society and hosted multiple beach clean up events.

Garden Valley Troop 997 Lien Doan Hoa Lu

Hannah Duong

Encourage Youth to learn STEM

STEM: Science/Technology/Engineering/Math
Worked with the Westminster Library to plan five consecutive weeks of events to encourage children to learn more about STEM.

Garden Valley Troop 997 Lien Doan Hoa Lu

Christina Mai

Giving to the Needy

Poverty: Hunger

Worked with Habitat for Humanity to make baskets of brand new supplies to give to families in need.

Garden Valley Troop 21004 Lien Doan Bach Dang Giang

Faith Ngo, Alpha Nguyen

Go Green & Keep Our Planet Clean

Environment and Sustainability

Made recycling bins for bottles, cans, and other reusable plastic items at Miles Square Park.

Garden Valley Troop 21004 Lien Doan Bach Dang Giang

Winette Nguyen, Vy Vu

Baby items for Pregnant Teens

Children's Issues: Infant Care

Collected baby and hygiene items for pregnant teens at Casa Teresa in Santa Ana.

Garden Valley Girl Scout Independent

An Nguyen

Animals

Garden Valley Girl Scout Independent

Phoebe Do

Animals

Garden Valley Girl Scout Independent

Seraphina Nguyen

Children's Issues

Garden Valley Girl Scout Independent

Vivian Trieu

Library Services

Education

Garden Valley Girl Scout Independent

Cecile Nguyen

Serving the Elderly

Elderly Issues

Tustana Troop 34

Corina Ayala, Ruby Gober, Virgilia Hernandez-Gonzalez, Destiny Velazquez

Ocean Pollution

Environment and Sustainability: Pollution

Designed and distributed educational materials and bookmarks to educate the public about ocean pollution and what they can do to help.

Tustana Troop 34

Karla Camacho, Daniela Campuzano, Alexa Fernandez

Beach Safety

Health/Public Safety: Water Safety

Prepared an informational pamphlet, set up a station at a beach city event, and distributed the brochures, showcased information, and talked with participants and answered questions to educate the public about beach safety.



Tustana Troop 889

Marysol Cazarez

Mobile Library for Operation Warm Wishes

Poverty/Education: Homelessness/Literacy

Worked with Operation Warm Wishes to build a mobile library, collected over 1,000 books, and established an ongoing effort to supply books to make books more accessible to homeless and low-income children.

Tustana Troop 889

Kelsey Arvidson, Reagan Arvidson, Natalie Tassinari

Art From the Heart

Arts, Culture, and Heritage/Health: Visual Arts/Mental Health

Made presentations and participated in community events to collect art supplies for Childrens Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) and set up an informational website to raise public awareness about art therapy as an effective way for hospitalized and seriously ill children to express themselves, forget about feeling sick, and inspire creativity and skill building in a positive way as it is effective and empowering method for relieving anxiety and stress.

Tustana Troop 889

McKay Arvidson, Emma Zuniga

Pulling Together for Ronald McDonald House

Health: Diseases

Started a school wide collection of aluminum pull tabs, collecting thousands of pull tabs and promoted the work of Ronald McDonald House to serve critically ill children and their families by providing food, housing, and transportation.

Tustana Troop 1279 Lien Doan Chi Lang

Britney Ngo

Celine Dang

Yvonne Nguyen

Tustana Troop 1279 Lien Doan Chi Lang

Thien Kim Phung

Education

Tustana Troop 1279 Lien Doan Chi Lang

Dana Duong, Lillian Le

Human Rights

Tustana Troop 3126

Isabella Hardman, Sofia Hardman

Adventures in STEM

STEM: Science, Engineering, Technology, Math
Provided a series of STEM classes for 1st-3rd graders.

Tustana Troop 3471

Krystal Chavez Madison McNeil Julianna Arzola

Tustin East Troop 486

Kaitlyn Sirimanne

Education

Tustin East Troop 551

Audrey Pedersen

TMA Buddy Bench

Children's Issues/Healthy Relationships:

Mentoring/Bullying

Helped kids learn how to build healthy relationships by adding a buddy bench on the school playground as part of character education, and including a training video to help teach kindness.

Tustin East Troop 551

Shannon Moss

Beads of Courage Bags for CHOC

Children's Issues/Health: Infant Care/Diseases

Organized a program, with the help of Fashion Camp of Orange County, to have kids sew drawstring bags annually to be donated to Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) for the Beads of Courage program, which provides colorful beads that can be put on a string or in a bag for each milestone reached in treatment, collected donations of fabric scraps and ribbon, and donated over 50 bags to CHOC.



Tustin East Troop 551

Alyssa Haas

c-ART

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Visual Arts

Provided arts and crafts supply carts for children.

Tustin East Troop 852

Kaley Choi

Sheepfold Shelter Easter Egg Hunt

Healthy Relationships

Worked with The Sheepfold to provide brunch and facilitate an Easter Egg hunt for residents of a local shelter.

Newport Mesa Troop 1059

Vivian Bonsager, Laila Mader

Caring for Kids

Children's Issues: Mentoring

Volunteered in the Children's Ministry at NorthEast of the Well, a non-profit organization helping families in need and developed a fun weekly program with games and activities for children.

Newport Mesa Troop 2192

Ashley Becker

Love Sac

Poverty: Homelessness

Taught and provided lunches for the homeless.

Newport Mesa Troop 2192

Abigail Pike

Benefits of Native Plants

Environment and Sustainability/Animals: Preserving

Outdoor Spaces/Animal Safety

Worked to plant a garden with native plants at a local elementary school and gave an interactive presentation for two fourth grade classes showing the animals attracted to the plants and the benefits they provide to the environment.

Newport Mesa Troop 2919

Alexa Agamalian

Bicycle Helmet Safety

Public Safety: Traffic Safety

Raised awareness about bicycle helmet safety and held a community event with speakers to educate the public.

Newport Harbor Troop 913

Samantha Finnegan, Kaly Keating, Katie Lowe, Erin Lustado, Emma Zebrowski

Newport Harbor Troop 1871

Isabel Ertac, Sara Ertac, Katie Michelson, Taylor Miller

Environmentally-friendly, Home Cleaning Supplies and Pesticides

Environment and Sustainability/STEM: Pollution/Science

Encouraged families to change their habits to help protect the environment and used proceeds from the Girl Scout cookie program to create 20 kits containing eight simple, environmentally-friendly home cleaning and garden pesticide products they manufactured with instructional videos on how the products work and how to create them.



Newport Harbor Troop 2917

**Claire Lewis, Megan McRae,
Ashley Shellow**

Girls Tackle Endangered Wildlife

Animals/Environment and Sustainability/Education:
Animal Rights/Wildlife Preservation/Mentoring
Partnered with the Environmental Nature Center to create crafts and learning activities for 300 youth to educate the community on the endangerment of the Wolverine and Blue Butterfly in California and the importance of habitat conservation.

Newport Harbor Troop 2917

**Sarah Shellow, Shannon Strasmann,
Chloe Wong**

Endangered Wonders In Our Backyard

Animals/Environment and Sustainability/Education:
Animal Rights/Wildlife Preservation/Mentoring
Partnered with the Environmental Nature Center to create crafts and learning activities for 300 youth to educate the community on the endangerment of Salt Marsh Birds and San Mateo Thorn Mint and the importance of habitat conservation.

Newport Harbor Troop 2917

**Pennie Passion, Anabella Rivera,
Maya Simpson**

Endangered Noteworthy Creatures – Green Sea Turtle & Northern Spotted Owls

Animals/Environment and Sustainability/Education:
Animal Rights/Wildlife Preservation/Mentoring
Partnered with the Environmental Nature Center to create crafts and learning activities for 300 youth to educate the community on the endangerment of the Green Sea Turtle and Northern Spotted Owl and the importance of habitat conservation.

South Coast Region

South Irvine Troop 157

**Trinity Brewer, Caden Callero, Marlee Dial,
Asal Kalantar, Sawyer Tull**

Backpacks 2 Fill The Gaps

Poverty: Homelessness

Held a collection for used backpacks and re-purposed them for the homeless into care kits filled with daily necessities including feminine hygiene supplies, 7 pairs of socks, 3 weeks worth of detergent to wash them, first aid supplies, sunscreen, body wash, nail clippers, and more.



South Irvine Troop 476

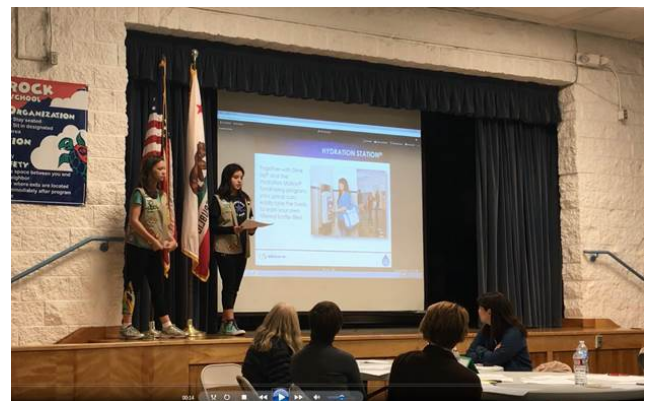
**Isabel Cotto, Nadia Hedayati, Hiromi
Nishida, Kaili Taagepera, Sabrina Vargas**

South Irvine Troop 744

Aubrey McKenna, Sophia Renger
Stay Healthy and Drink More Water!

Health

Worked to install a Hydration Station at Turtle Rock Elementary School to encourage kids to drink more water.



South Irvine Troop 1379

Kyrstyn Lehmann
**Irvine Animal Care Center Donation
Resource Guide**

Animals: Pet Care

Created a resource guide that reflects the needs of the community and the Irvine Animal Care Center (IACC) and provides suggested projects and ideas that can be used by different ages and groups on how they can assist and create or donate items to benefit the animals in the care of the IACC.

South Irvine Troop 1379

Sydney Adcook, Mahika Churiwala
Change for Better

Animals: Animal Safety

Partnered with their school to organize an annual event to raise awareness for the Pacific Marine Mammal Center.

South Irvine Troop 1750

Haley Do, Jani Ong, Shannon Wong

Education

South Irvine Girl Scout Independent

Alison Than

Hope Pick Up Donation Drive

Poverty: Homelessness

Set up an annual donation drive of gently used clothing, books, shoes and toys at The Highlands Community Pool for Hope Pick Up.

Heart of Irvine Troop 123

Ashlyn Gotori, Haley Hosokawa, Tiana Lin

What to do When You Encounter A Coyote

Animals: Animal Safety

Created a video that educates the community about coyote behavior and possible solutions on how to protect oneself with/without pets when a coyote approaches and what can be done at your residence to protect beloved pets.

Heart of Irvine Troop 638

Natalie Taylor Westfall

Signing to Girl Scouts

Disability: Disability and Special Needs Issues
Helped deaf girls experience Girl Scouts.

Heart of Irvine Troop 638

Kelly Rusmisl

Finding Your Forever Friend

Animals: Animal Adoption

Raised awareness of animal shelters and pet adoption, made toys and blankets to donate to shelters, and made activity books with games and coloring pages that support pet adoption for vets, pet stores and shelters.

Heart of Irvine Troop 638

Kathryn Mann

Sexual Assault Education

Healthy Relationships: Rape Prevention

Spoke to girls about how to protect themselves from sexual assault and what to do if they do get assaulted.

Heart of Irvine Troop 638

Francesca Isabella Dungo

Crochet for Cancer

Health: Diseases/Self-Esteem

Helped to boost the self-esteem of children with cancer by crocheting beautiful caps and donating them to Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) and formed a lunch club at Rancho San Joaquin Middle School to teach others to crochet and make chemo caps.

Heart of Irvine Troop 1515

Allyson Kusuma

Online Safety for Kids

Public Safety/Children's Issues: Mentoring

Taught children and teens tips for internet safety and how to use social media without sacrificing safety.

Heart of Irvine Troop 1809 Lien Doan Huong Viet

Amber Duong

Sarah Hong

MiaChanel Nguyen

Kacie Ta

Nicole Ton

Heart of Irvine Troop 2220

Kailey Schmidt

Surviving Middle School

Children's Issues/Education: Mentoring

Put together tips and a survival kit for 6th graders entering middle school next year.

Heart of Irvine Troop 3277

Giana Boghdady, Catarina Gerges, Lodgy Katkout, Jane Shohdy

Mission Viejo Animal Shelter

Animals: Animal Safety

Organized a group of twenty volunteers to work 60 hours to improve the landscape along the Pet Path at the Mission Viejo Animal Shelter.



Heart of Irvine Troop 3624

Alexis Chrastil, Mei Xuan Li, Danielle Widerman, Elizabeth Yawata

Fighting Hunger with a Virtual Garden & Farmer's Market

Poverty: Hunger

Raised hunger awareness through a virtual (website) farmer's market by choosing vegetables or other nutritious plants to grow from seeds in a container, hosting stories and photos showing the progress of each "crop" and selling their "produce" to family and friends who "purchased" the veggies to support of Second Harvest Food Bank.

Heart of Irvine Girl Scout Independent

Kiana Kelii

Piano Concert for the Elderly

Elderly Issues/Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Senior Centers/Music

Gave piano performances during mealtimes to encourage the elderly in nursing homes to get out of their rooms often and bring them happiness with music.

Heart of Irvine Girl Scout Independent

Lisa Chang

Art Everywhere

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Visual Arts

Shared her passion for drawing with children and teens to encourage them to participate in art using simple and inexpensive materials.

North Irvine Troop 356

Ellen Cassity

Inspiring Young Musicians

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Music

Inspired student musicians to love music, encouraging them to stick with practicing and become successful musicians, compiled a resource book for students, warm up routine, and practice schedule, created a practice assessment for 6th grade music students, and worked directly with 5th and 6th grade trombone and trumpet students in the Irvine Unified School District music program.

North Irvine Troop 356

Olivia Bobrownicki

Be the Difference

Environment and Sustainability/Animals: Preserving Outdoor Spaces/Animal Rights

Developed age specific curricula to teach environmental advocacy and promote conservation engagement in five areas, inspired by her Girl Scout *destination* (become an animal expert, dig into conservation careers, explore conservation in the government, learn about conservation issues in your community, and spread the word) and designed and created a multi age patch program for children ages 5-17 entitled "Be the Difference" to empower more than 200 children to conserve wildlife and the environment by completing activities that show them what they can do to create change.

North Irvine Troop 592

Erin Tsai

Live Healthy, Be Healthy

Health: Fitness

Put up reminders to tell people to sleep enough, exercise outside, and drink enough water.

North Irvine Troop 592

Sylvia Cheeseman

Bottles for Animals

Environment and Sustainability/Animals:

Pollution/Pet Care

Ordered recycling starter kits, recycled bottles/cans, and donated to a local animal shelter.

North Irvine Troop 990

Saachi Pavani

North Irvine Troop 2065

Keely McCarthy

Water Conservation

Environment and Sustainability: Water Conservation

Educated the community about the importance of water conservation.

North Irvine Troop 2065

Saanvi Kalele

Dangers of Technology

STEM: Technology

Addressed the dangers of overuse of technology-- how it affects us and what we can do combat it.

North Irvine Troop 2065

Sara Comer

Using Resources Wisely

Environment and Sustainability: Pollution

Addressed the problem of environmental pollution and waste, and how we can all use resources more wisely.

North Irvine Troop 2185

Roxy Casillas, Jenna Dedicatoria, Nikki Doiphode, Katie Howard Fuess, Mimi Haymes, Taylor Inouye, Lauren Lee, Karen Luo, Paula Zhang

Healthy Relationships

North Irvine Troop 3028

Rachel Gima

Book Drive for Salvation Army

Education

North Irvine Troop 5440

Sarah Bauer, Nitya Swaminath **Informing and Educating Through Musical Performance**

Arts, Culture, and Heritage/Health/Elderly Issues:

Music/Diseases/Seniors Centers

Presented entertaining, inspirational and educational musical performances to diverse audiences in local children's hospitals and senior living residences.



Niguel Coast Troop 1013

Samantha Cruz, Jenna Egan, Grace O'Malley, Lauren Stovesand **Neighborhood Safety**

Public Safety: Policing

Established a neighborhood watch in the community.

Niguel Coast Troop 1789

**Makenzie Ganje, Danielle Nadolski,
Kristin Robison**

Craft Activities

Arts, Culture, and Heritage/Children's Issues: Visual
Arts/Mentoring
Led craft activities for children.

Niguel Coast Troop 4512

Lindsey Haines, Allison Swart

Water Bottle Wednesday

Environment and Sustainability: Pollution
Developed a plan with their school and will continue to
collect recyclable water bottles every Wednesday as part of a
school wide grade K-12 recycling program.

San Clemente Troop 355

**Johanna Cervantes, Juliet Heal,
Samantha Kinney**

My Street, My Ocean Education

Environment and Sustainability: Clean Water
Assisted with collection of contact information to notify and
encourage San Clemente residents to move cars on street
sweeping days to allow street sweepers to better clean the
streets and prevent rain runoff of substances that are
harmful to the ocean and marine life.

San Clemente Troop 1520

**Julia Baldwin, Arianna Loyer,
Macy Reish**

Give Kids Access to Books

Education: Literacy
Built and decorated a bookshelf for a San Clemente
preschool.

South County Region

Lake Forest Troop 1859

Isabella Svoboda

Lake Forest Troop 1859

Avery Newell

Rancho Portola Troop 2022

Samantha Gunder, Chloe Smetanka
Homeless Family Spring Festival

Poverty: Homelessness
Worked with SPIN (Serving People in Need) to hold an event
for homeless families to provide normalcy and a fun family
experience including games, an egg hunt, food, and care kits
and created a pamphlet on how to help homeless families
in Orange County.

Rancho Portola Troop 2022

Claire Hallock
**Military Recognition and Awareness
Event**

Military/Veterans' Affairs: Veterans' Assistance
Held a Veteran's Day event to raise awareness for those who
are serving or have served in the military and donated letters
to service members, paracord bracelets, and care packages
to Operation Gratitude.

Mission Viejo Troop 26

Loren McLain, Emilie Roper

Together We Rise

Children's Issues: Foster Care
Provided backpacks with personal items and assembled
bicycles for foster children.

Mission Viejo Troop 26

Mahalia Isas

It's Paws-ible

Animals: Animal Adoption
Promoted pet adoption by watching, feeding, and walking
dogs, making dog toys/blankets, and collecting donated
items.

Mission Viejo Troop 26

Kamryn Davies-Kiernan

Animals

Mission Viejo Troop 26

Emma Bernaudo

**Clothing Drive for St. Kilians Catholic
Church**

Poverty: Hunger
Worked with a local food bank and church to organize
collection drives for food and clothing for local families.

Mission Viejo Troop 26

Elisa Sirin

Music Wall

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Music
Created a music wall from household and recycled items for
the neighborhood elementary school for smaller children
who don't have access to music yet.

Mission Viejo Troop 539

Blakely Walters

Lara's House Book Drive

Public Safety: Juvenile Detention

Mission Viejo Troop 539

**Morgan Jersey, Alessandra Kantoris,
Victoria Morones, Mirielle Smith**

Video Song Book

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Music
Worked to perform, film, edit, produce and distribute paper
and DVD songbooks for Service Unit.

Rancho Trabuco Troop 1142

Siena Giddens

Rolling Sensory Garden and Storybook

Education/Environment and Sustainability/Children's
Issues: Water Conservation/Mentoring
Built a wooden rolling sensory garden with drought tolerant
plants that target the five senses and wrote and illustrated a
storybook for preschool classes at Saddleback Children's
Center.

Oso Valley Troop 775

**Emily Ferguson, Kinga Grant-Zawadzki,
Lani Jacobson, Lauren Lenyi**

Home Away From Home

Children's Issues/Health: Mental Health

Made blankets and make-up bags for teens at New Alternative Inc. home.

Oso Valley Troop 781

Teresa Mendoza

Stepping Up

Children's Issues: Mentoring

Built wooden step stools and a ramp for Palisades Elementary School.

Oso Valley Troop 1025

Julia Miller

Box Tops School Coordinator

Civic Engagement: Community Development

Promoted and coordinated box tops collection at Carl Hankey K-8 School.



Oso Valley Troop 2030

Caroline Kinsey

Spreading Hope with Little Dresses For Africa

Children's Issues/Poverty/Health: Clothing/Self-Image

Worked with Little Dresses for Africa to make and send dresses to orphaned girls.

Ladera Valley Troop 2088

Miya Huber

Little Free Library

Education: Literacy

Created a Little Free Library to promote literacy and increase community cooperation and sharing.

Ladera Valley Troop 2428

**Kylie Anderson, Reagan Hirschag,
Camryn Hoppe, Mylan Leykauf,
Sophia White**

Ladera Ranch Little Free Library

Education/Civic Engagement: Literacy/Community Development

Created a Little Free Library in Ladera Ranch to encourage early reading among children and community development.



Ladera Valley Troop 2429

Amanda Ripic

Protect Our Environment - Water Conservation

Environment and Sustainability: Clean Water

Worked to help protect the environment through water conservation.

Ladera Valley Troop 2429

Madison Duerr, Gwen Gaylord

Melanoma Awareness - Day Camp Program

Health: Diseases

Put on one day program to promote melanoma awareness, prevention, and screening.

Ladera Valley Troop 2702

Bella Gordon, Annabella Kumar

Peace and Relaxation Anywhere

Poverty: Homelessness

Helped children in shelters find peace and relaxation.

Ladera Valley Troop 4495

Gianna Mordock

Education/Children's Issues: Mentoring

Ladera Valley Troop 4595

Jenna Powell

Keeping the Music Alive

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Music

Note: Silver Award Take Action projects may be conducted as a troop or group or individual. Silver Award Girl Scout names are listed by region, service unit, troop number, and last name for ease of indexing.

The Girl Scout Bronze Award



Congratulations to more than 800 OC Bronze Award Girl Scouts! The Girl Scout Bronze Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting for Girl Scout Juniors in grades 4-5.

Each Bronze Award Girl Scout develops a Take Action project to help improve her community and the world, and demonstrates that she is a leader who is organized, determined, and dedicated to contributing to the community in purposeful and meaningful ways.

The Girl Scout Bronze Award is approved by volunteers who have been trained to support girls in developing a Take Action project befitting the standards of the award.



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