

HIGHEST AWARDS YEARBOOK

Recognizing Recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award and Girl Scout Silver Award

Earned between October 2015 - September 2016





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 represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouting; it recognizes girls in grades 9 through 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 Gold Award has inspired thousands of Orange County Girl Scouts to find greatness within themselves and to create sustainable solutions to issues they care deeply about. This year, more than 100 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.



2015-2016 Girl Scout Gold Award Recipients at the annual Girl Scouts of Orange County Recognition Event held at the Disneyland Hotel in June 2016: (back row; left to right) Kaitlyn Sachs, Priya Mistry, Caroline Loose, Jessica Mabry, Hailey Glenday, Brenna Lanning, Kamela Kadri, Kristine Yada, Alessandra Wise, Julian Truong, Kayla Katsuda and (front row, left to right) Komal Gill, Lauren Marino, Kayla Borack, Dalyn Baxter, Lauren Wong, GSOC CEO Nancy Nygren, Alicia Pippert, Kaitlyn Iwaki, Samrah Ali, Valerie Sierakowski, Cristina Guijon

Girl Scouts of Orange County 2016 Girl Scout Gold Award Recipients

Samrah Ali Sarah Andreshak Natalie Bennett Riley Bennyworth Natalie Bickel Rebecca Bogdanovic Kayla Borack Brooke Budman Heather Carr Kelly Castleman Alice Chen Elizabeth Clark Lillian Clark Kristen Curtiss Christina Dang Nhi Diep Cat Ly Do Erin Duddy Erika Dunning Christine Eidt Allison Eiler Grace Ellison Dalyn Fairweathre-Baxter Noëlle Fischer Lindsey Gamache **Emily Gates** Meagan Gaydos Kara Gilbert Komal Gill Hailey Glenday Marina Graham Cristina Guijon Klohe Hauber Chloe Healy Gabriella Hernandez

Aurora Johnson Victoria Joo Rachael Joseph Kamela Kadri Rebecca Kasputis Kausalya Kethu Kristina Kim Isabela Kimmel Brenna Lanning Alice Lee Hannah Lee Rebecca Linker Caroline Loose Jessica Mabry Aroosa Malik Madeline Marine Lauren Marino Shannon Marquiss Ashley McMahan Christy Mednick Christina Meyer Priya Mistry Sarah Mundi Mali Nelson Aimee Nguyen Andrea Nguyen Cam-Mi Nguyen Jennifer Nguyen Madeline Nguyen Tracy Nguyen Laura Niedringhaus Claire O'Connor Claire Offenberger Elizabeth Orr Haley Otto Allyssa Oune Natalie Ozawa Alicia Pippert Rachel Pollard Elin Radziminsky Kimberly Ramirez

Zoya Razak Renee Reed Marianna Robles-Godinez Riley Rojas Amy Santa Maria Julia Shard Malvika Sheth Valerie Sierakowski Megan Smith Sarah Stumpf Hannah Takasuka Amelia Tehrani Lan To Jamie Tran Kimberly Tran Sophie Tran Melinda Tran **Emily Vees** Shriva Verma Hannah Vinh Allyson Vuong Natasha Vuong Dallie Weaver Kathleen Wegener Alyssa White Alessandra Wise Lauren Wong Julia Wong Victoria Woolfolk Kristine Yada Kari Yamamoto **Zoe Young** Angelina Zamora Julie Zhang

*2015-2016 Girl Scout membership year

Kaitlyn Iwaki

Emily Izmirian

Tamara Jafar

Julianna Janes

Grace Jennings

Jasmine Jackson



From House to Home

Poverty: Homelessness

Samrah Ali

Central Region: Tustin East Service Unit, Troop 788
Girl Scout Ambassador, Tustin High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Berkeley
(International Relations)/Foreign Service Agent

Samrah provided two shed-like homes for a homeless family of six so they would not have to move from motel to motel. She and her team built these homes while getting the community involved, through multiple networks at schools and local businesses. She advised with her team and used the social media platform to create awareness amongst the local population about homelessness and what they could do to help. It reeled in more contributors such as contractors and large construction corporations who partook in the project and have become future donors for future home renovations.

"From this experience, I learned that by building a cooperative and dependable team that looks out for the benefit of the entire group and is committed to succeeding in trying their absolute best, anything can be accomplished. It taught me to interact with others in ways that allow them to discover the answer with me as well as themselves so that in the future, everyone benefits."



Reading Changes Lives

Education: Literacy
Partnered with: Grandma's House of Hope

Sarah Andreshak

Northeast Region: Anaheim Hills Service Unit, Troop 1402 Girl Scout Ambassador, Canyon High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: California State University/Astrobiologist

Sarah created a library for the kids of the Crossings at Cherry Orchard a low income housing complex in Anaheim. She worked with Grandma's House of Hope staff to understand their need and put together a plan to convert a storage room into a library. Sarah's plan included reorganizing the room to make room for bookshelves and organizing, labeling and creating a book list of all of the books that they had and some additional donated books by Accelerated Reading level. The library will also be used by the kids and staff for tutoring, individual therapy sessions and meetings.

"While working on my Gold Award project, I learned how to communicate with different people and how to set expectations to meet a goal. I met and interacted with the kids that will use the library that my project created. I know that my project has made a difference and will continue to be used by the kids at Crossings at Cherry Orchard. It will help them to be better readers. Reading Changes Lives!"



Care for the Rare

Health: Diseases
Partnered with: TargetCancer Foundation

Natalie Bennett

South Coast Region: Aliso Viejo Service Unit, Troop 1269
Girl Scout Ambassador, Aliso Niguel High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Boston University (Political Science)/Congresswoman

Natalie was inspired to get involved with rare cancers due to her aunt's recent diagnosis with cholangiocarcinoma. There is not a lot of research or understanding about these cancers, and Natalie wanted to change that. She started Care for the Rare, an annual walk devoted to raising awareness and educating the community about rare cancers. The first walk took place this past July with about 300 people participating. Everyone came away from the day with more understanding about the issue of rare cancers. Natalie's project will be continued by the Stand Up To Cancer club at Aliso Niguel High School.

"By completing my Gold Award project, I learned the importance of time management and communication with team members. In order to be a successful leader, I had to realize my responsibilities to efficiently complete tasks myself as well as delegate to my team. I am extremely passionate about rare cancers and am looking forward to watching the positive effects of Care for the Rare continue."



Traffic SafetyPublic Safety: Traffic Safety
Partnered with: City of Huntington Beach

Riley Bennyworth

Central Coast Region: Surf City Service Unit, Troop 1894 "Lehua" Girl Scout Ambassador, Edison High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of Northern Colorado (Sports and Exercise Science)

Riley wanted to make her community safer by installing a crosswalk and speed limit signs near her high school to address the issue of traffic safety. By having this crosswalk installed, it will make drivers more aware, and hopefully drive slower to ensure the safety of the students and residents who live by the school. Since the crosswalk is permanent, there will be little to no problems of it continuing beyond her involvement. To measure the impact of her project, Riley could ask students who attend her high school if they feel safe having the cross walk there.

"While working on this project, I became a better leader because I'm not one to fight for what I want. As a result of this project, I gained confidence and heightened my social skills. After completing this project, I feel like I can accomplish much more and push my boundaries. Hopefully, inspiring others to help out the community."



PEP4U: Parkinson's Exercise Programs 4 Wellness

Health: Diseases
Partnered with: PEP4U (Parkinson's Exercise programs 4 Wellness)

Natalie Bickel

Central Region: Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1269 Girl Scout Ambassador, Aliso Niguel High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Berkeley (Integrative Biology)/Work in the Medical Field

Natalie's Gold Award spread awareness about the positive effects of regular, specialized exercise for Parkinson's disease patients. She advertised an organization called PEP4U (Parkinson's Exercise Programs 4 Wellness) which offers free exercise classes to people suffering from Parkinson's Disease by creating and distributing a promotional video. Natalie filmed PEP4U exercise classes and interviewed PEP4U participants, affiliates, and a neurologist. She then edited the video, printed DVDs, and distributed them to Parkinson's disease support groups and medical offices. Natalie hopes her project will attract participants and volunteers to PEP4U and increase understanding of the importance of exercise for Parkinson's disease patients.

"Through working in a team of both my peers and professionals, I expanded my leadership abilities by improving my communication skills, time management, and self-confidence. This project taught me how to work through unforeseen obstacles and manage a team, and it also expanded my interest in the professional medical field."



Mitzvah Movers

Civic Engagement: Community Development Partnered with: Temple Beth El of South Orange County

Rebecca Bogdanovic

South Coast Region: Niguel Coast Service Unit, Troop 1026, Laguna Niguel Girl Scout Ambassador, San Juan Hills High School

Rebecca established a club for teens at Temple Beth El of South Orange County to offer opportunities to make a difference in the community; over 150 students participated in volunteer events hosted by the club during the first year.



Creating Connections

Disability: Disability and Special Needs Issues Partnered with: Special Education Teacher

Kayla Borack

Central Region: Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 1061 Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: California State University, Long Beach

Kayla was inspired by her experience as a peer tutor for students with special needs to reenergize a club at her school called Baron Buddies. Kayla saw that many of the students she assisted didn't socialize with many of the general education students and that there was a lack of unity between the programs. Baron Buddies is a social club where all students, regardless of having a disability or not, can meet new people and build social skills. With the help of other dedicated peer tutors, Baron Buddies will continue to grow and bring students together.

"Completing my Gold Award Project has not only made me a much more confident young woman, but also a much stronger leader by working with a diverse group of people. Earning my Gold Award has also helped me define what I want to do in the future. I aspire to someday become a special education teacher for high school students with mild to moderate disabilities."



Service Dogs

Disability: Access
Partnered with: Canine Companions for Independence

Brooke Budman

South County Region: Lake Forest Service Unit, Troop 939 Girl Scout Ambassador, Santa Margarita Catholic High School

Brooke partnered with Canine Companions for Independence to educate her community about the importance of working service dogs, became a puppy raiser, and trained a guide dog to assist people with disabilities.



The Greenprint Project

Environment and Sustainability: Climate Change, Farming Partnered with: Fountain Valley High School

Heather Carr

Central Region: Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 1061 Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Santa Barbara/ Environmental Scientist/Politician/Park Ranger/Famous Writer

Heather established a food drive for homegrown fruits and vegetables within her high school to teach a cooking class the importance of reducing one's carbon footprint. She had done this, with the school's Ecology Club, by growing and collecting homegrown produce around the community for the class to use. She had also created a garden structure for the club to use to provide produce for the class in the future and created a video and blog to educate the students. The club will maintain the structure, blog, and video for future use to continue educating the community on this important issue.

"While working on this project, my skills as a collaborator and as a leader were put to the test every hour. Yet I am so thankful for that because, as a result, I was given the opportunity to develop into the stronger, even more self-assured individual I am today. The results I achieved from this project were immensely satisfying and also deepened my passion for environmental science even further."



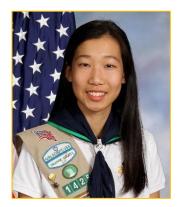
Science Jr: Bring STEM to Them

STEM: Science Partnered with: Castile Elementary School

Kelly Castleman

South County Region: Mission Viejo Service Unit, Troop 900 Girl Scout Ambassador, Capistrano Valley High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Northern Arizona University (Mathematics and Studio Art)

Kelly created the program STEM JR.: Bring STEM to Them to encourage young students' interest in science, technology, engineering, and math in the modern age. She planned and hosted multiple inclassroom activities for students in elementary schools, corresponding with state education requirements. Students that participated in these lessons found more interest in STEM subjects and wanted to continue to learn about them, based on classroom survey data. In addition, Kelly posted PDF files from her project online, so that teachers and parents across the nation can have access to activities to integrate into their students' education.



Opening Opportunities for Children at Orange County Rescue Mission

Children's Issues: Mentoring Partnered with: Orange County Rescue Mission

Alice Chen

South Coast Region: North Irvine Service Unit, Troop 1425 Girl Scout Ambassador, Northwood High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Berkeley

Alice created and operated a camp, in partnership with Orange County Rescue Mission, to bring the children residing at OCRM a chance to learn and understand life skills, including leadership, collaboration and communication. In order to tackle this project, Alice gathered ideas and materials, created timelines and contacted individuals from different parts of the community to unite in an effort to complete this camp. Alice hopes her camp had and will continue to expand the opportunities of the children at OCRM and help them reach their dreams.

"Through the course of the project, I learned a lot about not only my community but also about myself. It help me acknowledge some strengths and weaknesses I did not know existed. The Gold Award Project helped me improve my interpersonal skills as I was put in a position where I had to interact with friends and professionals alike."



Clothing for Change

Poverty, Health, Education: Clothing, Self-image Partnered with: Ruby Drive Elementary School

Elizabeth "Lizzie" Clark

Northeast Region: Yorba Linda East Service Unit, Troop 186 Girl Scout, Yorba Linda High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Dartmouth College (Anthropology)/Children's Psychologist or Teacher

Lizzie worked with Ruby Drive Elementary School. As a "Title I" school, the faculty shared that their biggest need was clothing for the sixth graders who were promoting. To tackle this project, Lizzie created a high school club called "Clothing for Change." She researched community resources for low-income families, especially programs available during summer months, and compiled information packets. Lizzie held a workshop for the sixth graders where the students were able to choose a new outfit, along with the informational packets that included childcare and free meals, and spoke to each student about the importance of education.

"As I worked with the students at Ruby Drive Elementary School, I realized my passion for working with younger children and acting as a role model for them. I enjoyed making a difference in my community and inspiring the students to work hard in school. My Gold Award was a project that I will always remember, and I look forward to continuing to make an impact in my community!"



Bottles for Books

Environment and Sustainability: Climate Change, Pollution Partnered with: Surfrider, Newport Beach Chapter

Lillian "Lily" Clark

Northeast Region: Yorba Linda East Service Unit, Troop 186 Girl Scout Ambassador, Yorba Linda High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Dartmouth College (Anthropology)/Educator

Lily created a club at her high school called "Recycle for a Cause," which focused on sustainable living, recycling, and conservation. To educate others about the importance of green living, she contacted experts, such as her AP Environmental Science teacher, who were able to provide her with more thorough information and resources. Her club held meetings during which members discussed living sustainably. Club members also participated in additional events, including a beach cleanup day where Lily worked with Surfrider Foundation Newport Beach Chapter. These projects inspired others to take action and make a change when it comes to living green.

"Throughout my project, I learned the importance of time management and organization. Both are essential skills when it comes to planning meetings and coordinating events. My project made me realize my passion for educating others about the importance of sustainable living and inspiring others to make change. As a result, I am now considering taking classes in Environmental Studies, so I can continue to encourage others to make a difference in their communities!"



First Graders Stamp Out the Drought

Environment and Sustainability: Water Conservation Partnered with: Courreges Elementary School

Kristen Curtiss

Central Region: Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 1063 Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: (Bio) Engineer

Kristen worked to improve education concerning the drought and water conservation. To do this, she showed the first graders at Courreges Elementary School many different ways to conserve water, including planting drought tolerant plants. To tackle this problem, she hosted an activity day at the school where students participated in many activities, including games, crafts, and planting, to help further their understanding of California's current water situation. Kristen then shared her ideas on social media, so others can replicate the activities. She also gave the teachers the lesson plans so they can continue this for years to come.

"As I was planning my activity day, I found that I can inspire many people to help me improve our community. My already strong leadership skills allowed me to make the activity day a success, since I was able to teach my volunteers how to lead the first graders on their own. I also discovered an interest in teaching younger students, especially about important environmental issues."



Homework Helpers

Education, Children's Issues: Mentoring Partnered with: YMCA

Christina Dang

Central Region: Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 997 Girl Scout Ambassador, Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy

Christina founded a tutoring program for children from elementary to middle school at the YMCA in Foothills. Her process through this Gold project included planning a timeline, finding a leadership team, meeting with youth and development managers, and informing local parents about her mission statement. Christina distributed flyers to various schools including Fremont, La Crescenta, Lincoln, Monte Vista, Valley View, and Rosemont. She chose this project to educate children because she believed every student should be given the opportunity to receive a solid academic foundation in order to pursue career they may hope to strive for in the future.

"Working with the youth in my local community to tackle the issue of education has allowed me to develop skills of leadership and patience. This Gold Award project demonstrates it only take one person to take the first step to make a positive difference in the lives of people who need it most."



Eliminate Good Waste

Environment and Sustainability: Climate Change Partnered with: Acacia Adult Day Services

Nhi Diep

Central Coast Region: West Garden Service Unit, Troop 2454 Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School

Nhi worked to educate adults at Acacia Adult Day Services about the benefits of composting as an alternative to reduce food waste and resulting methane gas in landfills and ultimately, to slow the effects of global warming on our environment.



Happy Means Healthy

Health: Fitness, Nutrition Partnered with: Boys and Girls Club of West Anaheim

Cat Ly Do

Central Region, Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 9514 Girl Scout Ambassador, Oxford Academy Future Aspiration/Career Goal: College (Biology/Biochemistry)

Catly designed a four-day workshop for the children ages 8-12 at the Boys and Girls Club of West Anaheim that addressed the four main aspects of a healthy lifestyle: fitness, nutrition, hydration, and sleep. She implemented the project through funds provided by the Anaheim Student Service Foundation and collaboration with an RN and several clubs. For each day of the workshop, there was a presentation aspect, as well as a hands-on activity so that the students have the information/materials to motivate them to make healthy lifestyle changes.

"During the extensive preparation for 'Happy Means Healthy,' I have learned that thorough communication, careful budgeting, and time management are crucial for success. By completing my Gold Award, I realize that with hard work and determination, I can motivate others to make better choices and make a change in the community."



Senior Technology Training

Elderly Issues, Education, STEM: Literacy, Technology Partnered with: Costa Mesa Oasis Center

Erin Duddy

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

Erin worked to connect the At Your Service student club, which aims to connect its members with community service opportunities with seniors at Costa Mesa OASIS Center. She planned to have members attend monthly sessions to help seniors become more comfortable using technology as a communication tool. She took steps to ensure that this volunteer opportunity exists for future years and members of the Corona del Mar student body can choose from a variety of dates and sign up for a session if it is something they are interested in.



First Grade Astronomy Curriculum

STEM, Education: Science
Partnered with: John S. Malcolm Elementary School, Capistrano Unified School District

Erika Dunning

South Coast Region: Niguel Coast Service Unit, Troop 1026 Girl Scout Ambassador, Dana Hills High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Whitman College or Bend Community College/Astronomy Professor

Erika created a first grade astronomy curriculum and kit for Capistrano Unified School District students to utilize. She choose this project due to the lack of curriculum for the new national standards in science. Science is very important for boys and girls alike and Erika's elementary school was in need for science kits for their school, but also to share with other local schools inside Capistrano Unified School District. The curriculum was also placed on Pinterest to facilitate teachers switching to the new first grade astronomy standards across the nation.

"Throughout my Gold Award, I grew to understand the responsibility that teachers have in creating their own lesson plans. As someone who strives to go into education, I have learned both how to create effective lesson plans, but also learned how to be able to go to other people when I need help."



Nature Ecosystem Restoration & Celebration

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

Christine Eidt

South Coast Region, Laguna Beach Service Unit, Troop 753 "Spinnakers" Girl Scout Ambassador, Laguna Beach High School

Christine partnered with Laguna Canyon Foundation and Transition Laguna to address non-native plants on local hiking trails in Laguna Canyon causing ecological havoc on the surrounding ecosystem by organizing groups of volunteers to remove these plants to decrease the threat of ecological imbalance on the environment.



Discovery Science Program

STEM: Science
Partnered with: La Habra Public Library

Allison "Ally" Eiler

Northeast Region: Yorba Linda West Service Unit, Troop 867 Girl Scout Ambassador, El Dorado High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Colorado University/Engineer

Ally created a free stem program for children between the ages of five to twelve. The program allowed the children to interact with experiments and material from the four areas of STEM. (Science, technology, engineering, and math) this experience will help the children improve their knowledge of everyday living but also help the create a new foundation in some of the Areas of STEM. This newfound knowledge could also help them in a high school and a middle school setting.

"I learned during this process is that it is valuable to learn how to communicate with people that you don't know. In addition, if you want to lead a project like this that you would need good leadership skills. You would also need the skill of problem solving huge issues at a period of time."



Educating with Ecology

Environment and Sustainability/Education: Preserving Outdoor Spaces Partnered with: Huntington Beach Community Gardens

Grace Ellison

Central Coast Region, HB Pierside Service Unit, Troop 859 "Odyssey" Girl Scout Ambassador, Edison High School

I created two native gardens, one in the Huntington Beach Community Garden (HBCG), and one at James H. Cox. The garden at the HBCG provides Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts a place to earn badges or patches that revolved around nature, and educates visitors and members about the importance of native plant and animal species and their impact on the environment. The garden at James H. Cox displays a number of plant species pertaining to various grades' education. It demonstrates the butterfly life cycle, plants that Native Americans and colonists used, and the influence indigenous animals have on the environment.

"Through this project, I have developed my leadership skills and my ability to take action for something that I'm passionate about. I learned how to communicate efficiently with others, how to organize schedules, and how to handle finances. I learned how to quide parties of people, and how to educate others as well as myself."



Supporting the Survivor

Human Rights: Human Trafficking Partnered with: Tustin High School, Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Dalyn Fairweathre-Baxter

Central Region: Tustin East Service Unit, Troop 788
Girl Scout Ambassador, Tustin High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Mills College (English, Creative Writing)

Dalyn created Supporting the Survivor in hopes that she could bring light to the issues faced by teens all over the world. Aimed at her high school classmates, the video vignettes illustrated the perils of being a teen in today's world and the situations they have to face, from human trafficking to terminal illnesses or other serious medical conditions. The videos were published on her high schools online newspaper, and will continue to be produced by her classmates.

"Working with survivors of many different issues, I found it startling how easily people can hide the things that ail them. As a leader, it's important to be able to see beyond what people claim about their wellbeing and find the truth, while also respecting privacy and mental health. A leader is someone who sees what's hurting others, changed their own behavior accordingly, and helps that person in whatever way is needed."



Red Wagon Wheel

Health, Elderly Issues: Mental Health, Dementia Partnered with: Vintage Senior Care

Noëlle Fischer

Northwest Region, Fullerton/La Habra Service Unit, Girl Scout Independent Girl Scout Ambassador, Cornelia Connelly High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Smith College (Physics and Economics)/Business Lawyer

Noelle noticed that there was a lack of support for teens who were adjusting to the shift in the family dynamic when a grandparent who suffered from Alzheimer's disease moved in. Noelle then created an organization that would enable teens to discuss their issues and/or receive advice from other teens. Noelle started this project by originally basing it out of her school and her local community. She then distributed it across the United States to schools and communities that wanted to start a chapter. So far, Noelle's project will be used to connect many unsupported teens.

"Throughout this project, my perseverance and development of healthy relationships have grown immensely. As a resort of this project, I learned that teen suffering, due to the addition of an Alzheimer's disease ridden grandparent, is not talked about and is often seen as taboo. Even when first reaching out to other suffering teens, the subject was difficult to discuss. This project enabled me to identify and address areas that are looked upon."



How to Follow the Leader: The Ultimate Plan for Growing Girls

Children's Issues: Mentoring Partnered with: St. Killian Catholic Church

Lindsey Gamache

South Coast Region, Niguel Coast Service Unit, Troop 98 Girl Scout Ambassador, JSerra Catholic High School

Lindsey saw a lack of quality female role models for tween aged girls. She decided to combat this with her Gold Award Take Action Project, entitled How to Follow the Leader: the Ultimate Action Plan for Growing Girls. After researching a plethora of role models, she created a lesson plan to help girls really delve deep into the question: what qualities are respectable in a role model, and ultimately, myself? She partnered with St. Kilian Catholic Church youth groups to host audio visual presentations, which included powerpoint and pamphlets, deep discussions, and fun theme games.

"Working closely with these young girls, I realized the importance of role models in identity. Every young person has certain ideals they hope shine beyond themselves. Such is the case with the greatest of role models. By aspiring to be like them, girls can, someday, see their own extraordinary qualities reaching beyond themselves and touching the lives of others. I realized the importance of teaching, and my own skill in the art of sharing knowledge."



Bilingual Literacy Project

Children's Issues, Education: Mentoring, Literacy Partnered with: Gates Elementary School

Emily Gates

South County Region: Lake Forest Service Unit, Troop 2291 Girl Scout Ambassador, Laguna Hills High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Fordham University (English)/Editor, Writer

Emily created her Bilingual Literacy Program to benefit second graders in the Spanish Immersion program at Gates Elementary. As a member of the program and an avid reader, she has a passion for both Immersion and literacy. She wanted to help young Immersion students improve and strengthen their reading skills in Spanish, skills that will take children far in life. She collaborated with teacher Beverly O'Brien to lead an after-school program that focused on one-on-one help with reading. After three months, the students' test scores improved. The Spanish Honor Society at Laguna Hills High School agreed to continue the program.

"Before my project, I did not think I was much of a leader at all. I was not sure how I was going to control groups of second graders and get them to read. As my project went on, I learned that I was really capable of being a leader and organizing programs. Working with the kids and earning my Gold Award showed me that I can make a difference with hard work and passion."



Operation: Back on Track

Children's Issues, Health: Mental Health Partnered with: A local hospital

Meagan Gaydos

Central Region: Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 1061 Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Irvine Valley College (Pre-Med)/Coroner or Medical Examiner

Meagan created a support group for teens with parents who were frequently in and out of the hospital. To achieve this, she fabricated a project plan, found an organization to help, made a budget, and a group therapist who specializes in this field of work. Meagan created flyers that brought teens in and had them work through study habits, diets, and proper sleeping habits to make sure that the kids didn't let their grades or mental health fall any more.

"As I met weekly with the kids, I realized how mature I had become. I learned that leadership is important to people when they're feeling at their lowest. Just simple things reminding you to study, eat, or sleep can help tremendously. Earning my Gold Award showed me that I can have a positive effect on my community."



Water Safety Day

Children's Issues, Public Safety: Water Safety Partnered with: Seal Beach Parks and Recreation

Kara Gilbert

Northwest Region: Anaheim Service Unit, Troop 881 "Wisteria" Girl Scout Ambassador, Los Alamitos High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Pediatrician

Kara's Gold Award Project was based on the issue of child deaths and injuries due to drowning. Being a swimmer, she often takes her ability to swim for granted. To reduce this risk for children, she held a water safety day where she taught kids the importance of water safety and educated parents on how to keep their kids safe around water. Many parents and their kids attended from the Orange County and southern LA County areas. To continue her project, she made a website about water safety and produced a video with the information taught at her project.

"From my project, I learned many life skills. I learned budgeting, time management, and communication skills. I also learned my capabilities and how I manage under stress. Working with my community helped me make bigger ties with my surroundings. My project has helped me bring light to an issue dear to me and inspire others to keep kids safe around water."



Learning Today Leading Tomorrow

Elderly Issues: Senior Centers Partnered with: Lake Forest Nursing Center

Komal Gill

South County Region, Rancho Portola Service Unit, Troop 708 Girl Scout, Trabuco Hills High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of Southern California (Production Design/Computer Science)

Komal worked with a nursing home and fifty other high school students to bring about a change in her community for elderly citizens. Every major holiday and other fun days, the Seniors to Seniors club that she started would make crafts for the elderly citizens. This action was to emphasize that there were people in the community that cared about them. Komal believes that expressing gratitude for others is important. With her brand new club on campus, she is hoping for change.

"There is a sense of unconditional love we have for our family. Making crafts for the elderly citizens and then being able deliver it to them and she the twinkle of happiness in their eyes, came very close to that sensational feeling. Through this experience, I have become the leader and human being I always knew I wanted and could be. Earning this prestigious award showed me that I have the ability to inspire change."



Love Notes

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Music Partnered with: Travis Ranch School Child Care

Hailey Glenday

Northeast Region, Yorba Linda East Service Unit, Troop 36 "Xanadu" Girl Scout Ambassador, Esperanza High School

Hailey created a music appreciation program for the second and third graders at the local after-school program. Hailey chose to do this project because she plays trumpet and wanted to share her music knowledge and passion to a younger generation. Hailey was targeting a younger group of students so inspire them and address the lack of music knowledge given to the students. Hailey's team taught the students basic music fundamentals, rhythms, and how to play musical instruments. Hailey gave her lesson plans and music instruments to the Child Care director to share with the students.

"As I worked on my project, I developed time management skills and how to work better with different kinds of people. Earning my Gold Award, I learned that I can achieve anything that I set my mind to and I can identify where there is a need in the community. This project continued to spark my passion for music because I was able to share my knowledge with a younger generation."



Japanese School Anthem

Arts, Culture, and Heritage, Health: Cultural Awareness, Self-esteem, self-image Partnered with: Orange Coast Gauken

Marina Graham

South Coast Region: North Irvine Service Unit, Troop 1425 Girl Scout Senior, Northwood High School

Marina created a Japanese school theme song to promote cultural pride among the students of Orange Coast Gakuen Japanese School. She wanted to help kids with to be proud and confident of their diverse backgrounds. With a song, she encouraged kids with a similar cultural background as her own to be proud of who they are.



Exploring STEM

STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math Partnered with: Research in Solar Energy Activity Lab/SEAL (developed at Caltech)

Cristina Guijon

Central Region, Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1015 "Aquila"
Girl Scout Ambassador, Arnold O. Beckman High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of San Diego (Chemistry)/Veterinarian

Cristina created presentations that educated children from kindergarteners to high school seniors about the importance of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). She focused on girls and those in under-served communities as these groups are underrepresented in STEM fields. Her presentations included examples of STEM in everyday life and ways to become involved in STEM. Cristina also presented research with her peers in the Beckman Science Research Program to other high school students at the California Institute of Technology's SEALCon. In addition, her website, www.goldstem.weebly.com, allowed Cristina to monitor the efficacy of her project by reading surveys left by users.

"Working with my peers to spread my passion for STEM was truly a rewarding experience. I will always remember the joy and enthusiasm on the faces of the children that I presented to. Through this project, I learned planning skills, leadership, and time management as I developed presentations and worked with others to share my love of the sciences."



Senior Connections

Military Veterans' Affairs: Veterans' Assistance Partnered with: Veterans of Foreign Wars; Fountain Valley Community Foundation

Klohe Hauber

Central Coast Region: HB Pierside Service Unit, Troop 1380 Girl Scout Ambassador, Huntington Beach High School

Klohe worked to preserve and document the stories and experiences of United States veterans to preserve American history, and partnered with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Fountain Valley Community Foundation to establish an annual Veterans Day event to honor the brave men and women who have served our country.



Champ the Service Dog

Disability: Disability and Special Needs Issues Partnered with: Tackett Service Dogs

Chloe Healy

Northeast Region, Santiago Creek Service Unit, Troop 915 Girl Scout Ambassador, Orange Lutheran High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: California State University, Fullerton/Nurse

For Chloe's Gold Award, she wanted to address stress in difficult situations. One way she did this was by using her Service Dog. Champ, so she wrote a book about him. She wrote her book at a third grade reading level. After writing the first chapter, she took it to Mrs. Surridge's third grade class. They gave her helpful feedback. Once finished, she donated some books to Tom Tackett to give one book to each Service Dog he trains. Then she donated a copy of her book to Ronald McDonald House, CHOC Hospital, and Mrs. Surridge's third grade class.

"This project has taught me a lot about myself and what I am capable of accomplishing. With the help of the Girl Scout community, I was able to bring together different types of people to work towards a common goal. Seeing what my book has done for people has inspired me to do something like this again."



End the Cycle Week

Healthy Relationships: Domestic Violence Partnered with: Laura's House

Gabriella Hernandez

South Coast Region: Aliso Viejo Service Unit, Troop 734 Girl Scout Ambassador, El Toro High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: (Political Science) Law School

Gabriella created a week of domestic violence awareness at her high school. She chose to address this issue based offher own experience in an abusive home. After not even being aware herself about the different types of abuse, she was determined to educate her peers. The week of awareness consisted of activities including: purple nails, writing encouraging notes to survivors, learning teen's legal rights, and an assembly presented by Marissa Presley, a Laura's House education and prevention specialist. This week is put together through the club she created, and will thus become tradition through the club.

"The months of preparation before taught me how to communicate efficiently, as well as how to manage my time well. As a result of my project, I became more comfortable talking about my experience of abuse, and I was also able to reflect about my growth since my time in an abusive home. Completing this project showed me that I'm passionate about advocating for others, specifically regarding silent issues, and minorities."



Get Active

Health: Fitness, Nutrition Partnered with: Extended School Program of Westminster

Kaitlyn Iwaki

Central Coast Region, West Garden Service Unit, Troop 2018 Girl Scout Ambassador, Troy High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Orange Coast Community College (Kinesiology)/ Occupational Therapist

Kaitlyn created a book about living a healthy lifestyle and included basic basketball drills. In Kaitlyn's community, she saw the growing rate of childhood obesity and wanted to do something. Kaitlyn also included basketball drills in the book because she had been playing basketball since she was young. To implement her project into the community Kaitlyn worked with the after school program and taught 20 fifth graders about healthy eating, proper stretching, and the basics of basketball. Kaitlyn left the booklet she made with them for them to use in the future.

"I learned better leadership skills and how to manage children better. From this project, I learned how fulfilling it is to see how my coaching helped the children improve as the days went on. This project worked my passion for helping people improve in anything which is why I plan to become an occupational therapist in the future."



Operation: Breast Cancer Awareness

Health: Diseases
Partnered with: Center for Cancer Counseling

Emily Izmirian

Central Coast Region, Huntington Harbor Service Unit, Troop 1307 Girl Scout Ambassador, Huntington Beach High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Lawyer

Emily created the Breast Cancer Awareness Club at Huntington Beach High School with the intention of bringing knowledge of this disease to teenagers. Emily conducted this project to support her mother who was diagnosed with breast cancer. Through Emily's project, she partnered with the Center for Cancer Counseling in order to receive clinical expertise on the emotional impact of cancer. Furthermore, she designed and created 150 seatbelt pillows for patients who have undergone mastectomies and/or chemotherapy port placements. Through this project and her Powder Puff Health Fair, Emily influenced the Huntington Beach community by raising awareness about this issue.

"Through this project I have learned the importance of collaboration and teamwork through pitching ideas and working with others. I have gained much knowledge about breast cancer and empathy for those who have undergone their struggle with breast cancer. This project has opened my eyes to other people's journeys with cancer and has allowed me to broaden my perspectives."



Succulents for Seniors

Environment and Sustainability: Preserving Outdoor Spaces

Jasmine Jackson

South Coast Region, North Irvine Service Unit, Girl Scout Independent Girl Scout Ambassador



Tech with Tam - Technology Class

Elderly Issues, STEM, Education: Senior Centers, Technology, Literacy Partnered with: Del Obispo Terrace Senior Center, California Scholarship Federation

Tamara Jafar

South Coast Region, Niguel Coast Service Unit, Troop 1026 Girl Scout Ambassador, Dana Hills High School

Tamara created a hands-on workshop at Del Obispo Terrace Senior Center to help bridge the gap between older and younger generations through technology, helping students to help seniors communicate and connect with loved ones using instant messaging, video chats, sending pictures, and other forms of communication.

"Bridging the gap between old and new generations through technology has strengthened my public speaking skills, determination and compassion. My gold award project has shown me that I can make a significant difference in the lives of others and bring together diverse groups of people to form a unified community."



Hooked on Books

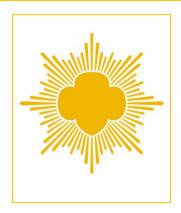
Education: Literacy Partnered with: El Modena High School

Julianna Janes

Northeast Region: Santiago Creek Service Unit, Troop 833 Girl Scout Senior, El Modena High School

Julianna started a book club called Hooked on Books to motivate kids to read instead of going on their electronic devices. To tackle this project, she created a timeline and got a team of high school students as well as an author/GATE teacher and the Journalism Op/Ed Editor/Literary Magazine President from the local high school. Julianna held weekly meetings where she would read to the kids and discuss what was read and would assign weekly at home assignments. The kids were engaged and loved spending time reading the books.

"I learned the importance of self-discipline and time management. I realized how important it is to help others when I feel a change needs to be made. After speaking with the kids I worked with, many of them said they enjoy reading much more after this project and that was the change I wanted to see and it made me feel good that I made an impact on the kids' lives."



Shalimar Science Club

STEM: Science Partnered with: Shalimar Learning Center

Grace Jennings

Central Region: Newport Harbor Service Unit, Troop 227 Girl Scout Ambassador, Corona del Mar High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Engineering

My project addressed the lack of education and hands on experience in science and elementary schools in low socioeconomic areas with nonnative speakers, specifically at Shalimar. I addressed this issue by creating a six week science program at an after school center called Shalimar. Each week the volunteers and myself taught a lesson, gave a demonstration and helped facilitate an experiment to teach the kids about different types of science and the different jobs that use them. The kids at Shalimar built relationships with the volunteers and became excited about learning science and doing experiments.

"I gained practical life skills, good organizational habits and teaching skills. Hearned to think critically and dissect complex concepts in order to explain them to others. I developed healthy relationships with the kids at Shalimar and I encouraged them to learn and pursue their passions, as I told them about mine. I also learned that I was a good teacher through creating the lesson plans and learning to control the kids at Shalimar."



City of Huntington Beach CIT Program

Children's Issues, Healthy Relationships, Civic Engagement: Mentoring, Bullying, Community Development Partnered with: City of Huntington Beach Community Services Department

Aurora Johnson

Central Coast Region: Surf City Service Unit, Troop 227
Girl Scout Ambassador, Huntington Beach High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Georgetown University (International Political Economy)/
Work in Public Policy

Aurora was concerned that there was a shortage of affordable quality summer childcare in her city, a problem that disproportionately affects working mothers. She decided to work with her city's Community Services Department to create a volunteer Counselor in Training program for high school students to help the city-run Camp HB, which is a provider of great summer childcare. The students were able to gain valuable work experience in the childcare field, while helping Camp HB keep costs low, and continue to do their amazing work in Aurora's community.

"I was so lucky to have learned the skills for program development from my mentors at the HB Community Services Department. I have always wanted to work in government, creating meaningful programs and initiatives that help out my community, and this allowed me to do so while still in high school."



Beyond Bars

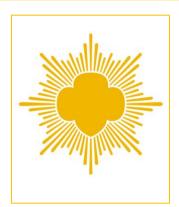
Public Safety, Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Juvenile Detention, Detention Centers, Visual Arts Partnered with: Los Padrinos/Theolacy Juvenile Detention Centers

Victoria Joo

Central Coast Region, West Garden Service Unit, Troop 452 Girl Scout Ambassador, Cypress High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Chapman University (Psychology)/Youth Correctional Counselor

Beyond Bars was a gallery displaying the artwork and literature done by adolescents in juvenile detention. Vickie's purpose for this project was to humanize incarcerated youth by displaying their talents and abilities, in hopes of changing the negative way society perceived them. To accomplish this event, she worked with John from ArtShareLA and two different facilities that were willing to loan her the pieces. Her long-term goal is to raise awareness to the national issue of mass incarceration and juvenile delinquency, ultimately focusing on ending the vicious criminal cycle.

"Working alongside companies has taught me to be bold and take initiative when reaching out to people with the proper resources. I also learned to compromise and communicate effectively, in order to appeal to the needs of every party involved. Most importantly, Beyond Bars has encouraged me to pursue a career in juvenile justice and given me a goal to strive towards."



Summer Scholars

Children's Issues: Mentoring Partnered with: Boys and Girls Club of Capistrano Valley

Rachael Joseph

South Coast Region: Aliso Viejo Service Unit, Troop 1234 Girl Scout Senior, Aliso Niguel High School

Rachel worked with staff to share learning strategies, motivate kids through project-based hands on activities, and create summer learning activities for students at Boys and Girls Club of Capistrano Valley.



The Reassurance Project

Children's Issues/Health: Diseases, Mental Health Partnered with: Facebook

Kamela Kadri

South County Region, Ladera Valley Service Unit, Troop 2608 Girl Scout Ambassador, Tesoro High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Los Angeles/Doctor

Kamela created The Reassurance Project for the Children of Cancer Patients, which addresses the problems that the children of cancer patients have to deal with after their parent is diagnosed. The aim of Kamela's project is to help the children of cancer patients feel like they belong to a community via an interactive safe haven that is easily accessible to people all over the world. Kamela encourages direct communication to keep her impact as concentrated as possible. Through her social media presence and strong message, Kamela was able to influence the lives of hundreds of people all around the world.

"I learned how to communicate effectively, manage my time, maintain a positive outlook, problem solve, and most importantly, be a strong team leader. My leadership skills have grown exponentially over the past year, and I found out that I can really do whatever I set my mind to. I learned how to become an effective and efficient leader by realizing a problem, constructing a solution, implementing my plan, and effectively drawing awareness to my project."



Stand With TransHuman Rights: LGBT Rights
Partnered with: LGBT Center Orange County

Rebecca Kasputis

Central Coast Region, HB Pierside Service Unit, Troop 1955 Girl Scout Ambassador, La Quinta High School

Rebecca addressed the issue of transphobia in schools and her community. She worked with the LGBT center OC to interview transgender youth at a support group. She then complied their stories into a short film that expresses the challenges that these youth go through. Her film will be used to educate the public in various trainings for school psychologists, Employment Discrimination (EEOC), and Youth Homeless shelters. It has been implemented into high school and college curriculum. It is also being used nationwide by the Human Rights Campaign to train school staff.

"By reaching out to a part of the community which is typically overlooked, I've gotten countless opportunities to work to better the world even beyond my Gold Award project. By working with many diverse people, I have gained a new perspective on the world. I've gotten many responses from my film from those who have personally connected with it and their gratitude has impacted me deeply."



Project Fighting Malnutrition and Unhygienic Conditions in Chennai, India

Health: Nutrition, Hygiene Partnered with: Family Planning Association of India

Kausalya Kethu

South Coast Region, South Irvine Service Unit, Troop 1214 Girl Scout Ambassador, Irvine High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Health Care Professional

Kausalya led and conducted a series of health workshops in the urban slums of Chennai, India in collaboration with community health workers and medical professionals. The primary objective of workshops was to create awareness among urban slum dwellers on issues of malnutrition and personal hygiene. The workshop series targeted different health issues among various age groups (toddlers, teenagers, and adults) and genders. The collaborative platform she created with the help of local organizations will ensure continuity of effort in the coming years, encouraging slum-dwellers to take part in simple lifestyle changes that will help them lead healthier lives.

"As I worked to educate the urban slum dwellers about health and hygiene, I realized my passion for helping others, enhanced my leadership skills, and discovered my abilities to make a positive influence on my community. This project has sparked my ongoing interest in public health and serving the global community."



Public Art for Inspiration

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Visual Arts Partnered with: Canyon View Elementary School

Kristina Kim

South Coast Region, North Irvine Service Unit, Troop 1442 Girl Scout Ambassador, Northwood High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Author/Writer

Kristina designed and painted a mural at Canyon View Elementary school to encourage and inspire young children to take part in, and advocate for, the arts. She also created a documentary video of the entire process in order to reach a larger audience. The video helped show the kids that even big projects begin with simple steps that they can take and put into practice. With the help of her team, Sherwin-Williams, and the Canyon View faculty, Kristina was able to share her passion and beautify the community with a public art piece that will last for years to come.

"Through the process of creating this mural, I've learned how important it is for a leader to have a clear vision of the outcome they're striving for, and a plan for how to get there. My team was an indispensable support, and the reason they believed in me was because I believed in what we were doing. In our effort to spark other people's interest in the arts, I've also reinvigorated my own."



The Bajo Coen Library Project

Education: Literacy
Partnered with: Outward Bound Costa Rica

Isabela Kimmel

Northeast Region, Yorba Linda West Service Unit, Troop 1227 Girl Scout Ambassador, Orange County School of the Arts Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Los Angeles (Dance/Earth Science)

While visiting an orphanage in Peru, Isabela saw a huge gap in opportunities that children have compared to the US and was inspired to address the lack of educational resources for children within poor countries. Working with Outward Bound, she started a library in Bajo Coen, an indigenous village in Costa Rica, so remote that it has no electricity or government funding. Promoting the project via s social media, her team brought over 400 Spanish books, 4,000 school supplies, built shelving and implemented a system that will keep supplying new books to the library. For details, visit: https://www.facebook.com/thebajocoenlibraryproject/

"This project taught me so much about the world we live in, myself and how sometimes the smallest things can make a huge difference in other people's lives. There are no limits to our capabilities. It gave me the confidence to become a leader outside of my community, no matter my age. In college, I hope to pursue opportunities that will allow me to continue helping others, especially in other countries."



Lending a Paw

Animals: Animal Safety, Pet Care Partnered with: O.C. Animal Care

Brenna Lanning

Central Region, Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1015 Aquila Girl Scout Ambassador, Arnold O. Beckman High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Oregon State University (Biology)/ A career that benefits the lives of animals

With a passion for animals in mind, Brenna decided to dedicate her Gold Award Project to helping ensure that dogs live happy and healthy lives. To accomplish this, Brenna made 109 care packages that each included a dog toy, dog coat, and educational pamphlet full of helpful information and tips for taking care of a dog. Then, Brenna donated her handmade care packages to OC Animal Shelter, which distributed the packages out to customers adopting a dog. Brenna also made a video about the proper care of dogs that is posted on YouTube and can be accessed globally.

"Going into this project, I developed an even stronger passion for animals, which has shaped me as an individual. My project gave me the desire to get involved and to speak up for animals in need, and because I completed this difficult project, I know that I have the power to make a difference. I have the power to inspire others and to help make the world a better place, and that's an immense feeling."



Bigger Picture

Education, Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Literacy, Languages Partnered with: Heritage Park Regional Library's Korean Storytime

Alice Lee

South Coast Region, South Irvine Service Unit, Troop 1442 Girl Scout Ambassador, Orange County School of the Arts Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Occupational Therapist

Alice addresses the issue of illiteracy and loss of bi-literacy in Korean-American children by leading a group of artists and translators who helped her create larger, translated versions of storybooks. These thematic books were used mainly by the Korean Storytime program at the Heritage Park Library on rotation. The English books could be used in the other story times such as the Hindi or Chinese Storytimes. Alice used English as a tie between the different cultures and within each bi-literate culture as well. She hoped to better engage the participating children with her books.

"As I formed a team of artists, I developed my skill of organization and learned the meaning of being a good leader. Instead of doing all the work myself, I could be dependent of others to help me to achieve a desired outcome. Earning my Gold Award helped me to reconnect with my culture as a Korean-American and help others do the same."



Debate Tournaments for Students

Education, Health, Children's Issues: Career Training, Self-esteem, Mentoring Partnered with: Junior Statesman of America, Magnet Academy, Jeffrey Trail Middle School

Hannah Lee

Central Region, Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1015 "Aquila" Girl Scout, Arnold O. Beckman High School

Hannah Debate aims to teach students about debate and public speaking skills in order to combat the political apathy that exists as well as develop the public speaking skills of middle school students. Schools do not sufficiently teach students how to present their opinions and speak in front of the class despite the many demands. Therefore, Hannah has created a website for schools to use and also hosted various tournaments via Skype for students to all enhance their debating skills. She aims to continue this project with fellow highschoolers for another year.

"As I encountered various students, I realized the smiles that the students possess truly brought me genuine smiles. The transitions they experienced as they grew to become confident speakers was a joy. My Gold Award paved my passion to expand Hannah Debate to new boundaries by establishing debate programs at local schools."



National Jewish Religious Award

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Cultural Awareness
Partnered with: National Jewish Committee on Girl Scouting; National Jewish Federation

Rebecca Linker

South Coast Region: South Irvine Service Unit, Troop 887 "Crossroads" Girl Scout Ambassador, Spring Oaks Canyon Academy

Rebecca encouraged young children of Jewish faith to learn about their heritage through partnership with the National Jewish Committee on Girl Scouting and the National Jewish Federation.



La Purisima First Annual Community Resource Fair

Civic Engagement: Community Development Partnered with: La Purisima Catholic Church

Caroline Loose

Northeast Region, Santiago Creek Service Unit, Troop 833 Girl Scout Senior, El Modena High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: College/Doctor

Caroline wanted to bring resources in the community to the people at her parish who were in need and did not have prior knowledge of these resources. She organized a fair at her church with about 25 organizations who brought information on what they did to the parishioners. Caroline had to contact these organizations, create registration papers, flyers, and evaluations, coordinate with the church, run the event the day of, and advertise the event. The church has agreed to run the event from here on out, but Caroline plans to help organize the event in the future.

"In doing my Gold Award, I learned that the power of one is very strong. If I have a positive attitude and confidence, I can impact my community. I have learned that I really can make a difference. I have become a better leader in doing my project and I have been inspired to help my community beyond my Golf Award."



Bows, Bandanas, and STEM

Education, STEM: Career Training, Engineering Partnered with: California State University, Fullerton, Society of Women Engineers

Jessica Mabry

Northeast Region : Yorba Linda East Service Unit, Troop 36 "Xanadu" Girl Scout Ambassador, Esperanza High School

Jessica promoted careers in STEM to middle school girls by creating opportunities for the girls to imagine a future STEM career and to talk with women in STEM careers and members of California State University Fullerton Society of Women Engineers.



Cultural Chemistry

STEM, Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Math, Science, Cultural Awareness Islamic Center of Yorba Linda

Aroosa Malik

Northeast Region: Yorba Linda East Service Unit, Troop 186 Girl Scout Ambassador, Yorba Linda High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Irvine (Biology)/Neurosurgeon

Aroosa created a camp called Cultural Chemistry. The issue was targeting was the lack of Pakistani women entering in the field of math and science because of cultural expectations. My target audience are the female members of the mosques in Orange County. According to HealthBridge Analysis report, "the majority of women in Pakistan(79.4%) are labelled as housewives." In the U.S., not enough Middle Eastern women are pursuing degrees to address the growth rate potential in math and science fields. The two reasons are: invisible barriers and cultural expectations. She established her camp throughout mosques in Orange County.

"I made a difference by being a role model for young-Pakistani women. I was seen as a glimmer of hope about the potential in every single girl that plans to have a career in the STEM field. As an advocate for female education, I altered the views of this culture`s expectations for women. This allows more leniency for parents in letting their daughters seek a successful future for themselves."



Smiling, Singing, and Signing!

Disability: Hearing Impaired

Madeline Marine

Central Region: Newport Harbor Service Unit, Girl Scout Independent Girl Scout Ambassador, Corona del Mar High School

Madeline educated students and teachers about the special needs of deaf and hearing impaired people and helped to instruct first, second, and third graders to learn American Sign Language by creating a series of videos of herself and others signing patriotic songs that can be used as teaching tools and an introduction to learning a new language.



Exercise in the Outdoors

Health: Fitness, Mental Health

Lauren Marino

Central Region: Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1015 "Aquila" Girl Scout Ambassador, Arnold O. Beckman High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Marital and Family Therapist

My project, Exercise in the Outdoors, was dedicated towards providing an outlet for people like my friend to decrease stress, improve their mental health and come together with others in their community. My goal was to increase exercise in the community in hopes of alleviating stress is driven by the loss of one of my close friends. Exercise provides endorphins that make me feel happy. When your happy, it's amazing how many lives you touch with just a single hello. I changed lives for the better within my community. This is an experience I will never forget!

"I learned how to encourage others to embrace what the outdoors has to offer. I was lucky enough to grow up with a faith based lifestyle as well as being deeply rooted into athletics. I know firsthand what exercise and a well-balanced diet can do for your life and stress level."



Emergency Preparedness Program

Disaster Relief, Public Safety: Fire, Natural Disasters, Earthquake, Water Safety Partnered with: Orange County Fire Authority, American Red Cross

Shannon Marquiss

Northeast Region: Yorba Linda East Service Unit, Troop 186 Girl Scout Ambassador, Yorba Linda High School

Shannon worked with the Orange County Fire Authority and American Red Cross Orange County to hold a Safety Family Night at Bryant Ranch School to educate the public about fire safety, drowning prevention, earthquake preparedness and other disasters and to encourage people prepare for and know how to prevent possible emergency situations.



Tools for Transition

Disability: Disability and Special Needs Issues Partnered with: Orange Unified School District

Ashley McMahan

Northeast Region, Anaheim Hills Service Unit, Troop 1171 Girl Scout Ambassador, Canyon High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Engineer or Pharmacist

Ashley established and coordinated the Special Needs Adult Transition Fair to provide information about special needs adult services to families. For this project, she reached out to various agencies who would be potential vendors for the event. They offered services such as education, employment, and independent living. The fair included 24 vendors and live presentations of various topics. Ashley led a team of volunteers on the day of the fair and oversaw the event. Ashley also created a website to provide contact information of the participating agencies. The fair became an annual event for Orange Unified School District.

"My Gold Award project allowed me to further contribute towards a community that I am passionate about- the special needs community. This project has taught me important skills such as people skills, teamwork, leadership and the ability to identify community issues and inspire others to get involved in creating change."



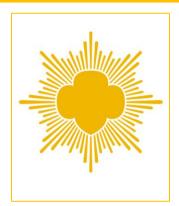
Therapeutic Sensory Stall

Disability: Disability and Special Needs Issues

Christy Mednick

South Coast Region: San Clemente Service Unit, Troop 1258 Girl Scout Ambassador, San Clemente High School

Christy organized the construction of a therapeutic sensory stall to benefit physically challenged clients and help them gain greater independence through the occupational therapy program at Shea Therapeutic Riding Center.



Educational Xeriscaping of Troy High School

Education, Environment and Sustainability: Preserving Outdoor Spaces, Climate Change Partnered with: Troy High School

Christina Meyer

Northwest Region: Fullerton/La Habra Service Unit, Troop 394 "Sovereign" Girl Scout Ambassador, Troy High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Berkeley (Molecular Cell Biology)/Environmental Research or Medicine

Christina organized the xeriscaping of Troy High School to educate students, faculty, and the school community about water usage and native plant restoration in the Los Angeles basin. To accomplish this, she created a project to address these needs and worked alongside a landscape architect, school faculty, and native plant experts to implement it. The project has information online about planting native plants in personal gardens and will be used as part of science curriculum when it is fully matured.

"My project allowed me the opportunity to inspire people to work on a common goal: helping our environment and educating others about the impacts of drought and habitat destruction. I learned how to work with administration, school staff, volunteers, and native plant experts to xeriscape the school, reducing the need for watering in a blighted area. This project made me realize the importance of environmental sustainability and made me consider a new career path."



Helping Those Who Could Not Help Themselves

Healthy Relationships, Health: Domestic Violence, Mental Health Partnered with: Interval House

Priya Mistry

Central Region: Tustin East Service Unit, Troop 788
Girl Scout Ambassador, Arnold O. Beckman High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Chapman University (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology)/Trauma Doctor

Priya collected old/unused cell phones from her family, friends, and church and passed them on to Interval House. Interval House refurbished these cell phones and the parts and then sold them to raise money for the organization which helped women, children, as well as men who were being abused. She chose this project because she herself knew people personally who have been abused, and she wanted to make a difference in other victims lives. She was able to collect over 80 cells phones for the local organization, and in the process inspired younger Girl Scouts to reciprocate the act.



Behind the Curtain

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Performing Arts Partnered with: Boys and Girls Club of Huntington Valley

Sarah Mundi

Central Region: Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 1061 Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School

Sarah created a backstage camp at Boys and Girls Club of Huntington Valley to increase arts program opportunities and provide theater experiences for kids to work backstage doing costumes, set design, sound, and lighting.



Moving for a Change

Health, Sports: Fitness, After-School Programs Partnered with: Glen Yermo Elementary School

Mali Nelson

South County Region: Mission Viejo Service Unit, Troop 900 Girl Scout Ambassador, Capistrano Valley High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Saddleback College (Graphic Design and Fitness)/Graphic Designer or Dance Teacher

Mali addressed inactivity and promoted exercise for elementary school students by organizing self-defense and dance classes at Glen Yermo Elementary School to encourage them to be active build self-confidence through physical activity.



Skype School

Education, Arts, Culture, and Heritage, Children's Issues: Career Training, Languages, Mentoring Partnered with: Association for the Support of Orphans and Destitute Children

Aimee Nguyen

Central Region: Newport Harbor Service Unit, Girl Scout Independent Girl Scout Ambassador, Corona del Mar High School

Aimee partnered with Association for the Support of Orphans and Destitute Children in Vietnam to create lesson plans for children in orphanages in Vietnam to help them learn English as a way to expand their future employment opportunities and seek a better way of life through education.



The Upside to Down Syndrome

Disability: Disability and Special Needs Issues
Partnered with: Down Syndrome Association of Orange County

Andrea Nguyen

Central Region, Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1279 "Lien Doan Chi Lang" Girl Scout Senior, Mater Dei High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: California State University, Long Beach/Nurse

I've decided to do a club activity for kids with Down syndrome. I feel by doing this project I feel a connection towards these kids. Having a sibling that also has special needs gives me the inspiration and motivation to help these kids. For example, my brother was diagnosed with autism at the age of three. As I grew older I finally understood what it meant. It soon gave me the strength to strive to help other kids with special needs. As the youngest sibling out of three I find it hard to see what he goes through. Also my brother has to go through each day not knowing that he is being talked about and that other kids take advantage of him. As a sister I want to do everything to make sure that my brother is happy. And that is what I intend to do for these kids with Down syndrome.

"Some people are born a leader while others have the potential to be one by influencing others. For me I was able to develop the skills of a leader. Throughout my Gold Award project I learned the many basic skills of leadership such as, communication, time management, etc. Not only did I learn the basic skills of leadership, but I was able to meet new kids and share a bond with each and every one of them."



Beautifying the City by Painting Art on Utility Boxes

Arts, Culture, and Heritage, Children's Issues: Art, Mentoring Partnered with: Boys and Girls Club of Anaheim

Cam-Mi Nguyen

Central Region: Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1279
Girl Scout Ambassador, Orange County School of the Arts

Cami-Mi promoted arts education and provided an art program with art lessons and an art show for invited guests for students to explore different artists, styles, mediums, and techniques at the Boys and Girls Club of Anaheim.



Every Drop Counts

Environment and Sustainability: Water Conservation Partnered with: City of Westminster

Jennifer Nguyen

Central Coast Region: West Garden Service Unit, Troop 2506 Girl Scout, Fountain Valley High School

Jennifer created an interactive presentation to educate residents of Westminster about the current crisis of the California drought, its impact on the environment, the importance of water conservation, and ways they can take action to save water.



Alzheimer's Awareness

Health: Diseases Partnered with: Mater Dei High School

Madeline Nguyen

Central Coast Region: Ocean View Service Unit, Troop 262 Girl Scout Ambassador, Mater Dei High School

Madeline established an Alzheimer's Awareness Club at Mater Dei High School to educate and support her fellow students who may be related to a person with Alzheimer's or wish to volunteer their time to aid a person living with Alzheimer's.



We Are All Unique

Disability: Disability and Special Needs Issues Partnered with: Marina High School & Childtime Learning Center

Tracy Nguyen

Central Coast Region, West Garden Service Unit, Troop 5194 Girl Scout Ambassador, Marina High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: California State University, Long Beach/ Health Care Administration

Tracy created an Autism Awareness Month at Marina High School, Bolsa Grande High School, Pacifica High School, and Santiago High School. She wanted her peers to understand what autism is and what they can do to help students with autism feel more comfortable in their surroundings. In her awareness month, she distributed bracelets, had bake sales, and educational and social days. To expand her project further, she donated autism friendly books to a local learning center to give students with autism different learning options so learning can be fun and less difficult.

"Being able to start a project to take on a global issue is one of the most difficult things I have ever done. But as I traveled through my Gold Award Journey, I learned many things through volunteerism, leadership, and how to have fun while helping others. Girls do not have to be Girl Scouts to make a difference; I believe that if she puts her mind to it, she can make all the difference."



Preserving the Path to STEM Success

Education, STEM, Children's Issues: Career Training, Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Mentoring
Partnered with: DJAMS and many different STEM companies

Laura Niedringhaus

South Coast Region, Aliso Viejo Service Unit, Troop 734
Girl Scout Senior, Aliso Niguel High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: College/Disney Imagineer

Laura created a Future GEMS program at her local middle school in order to help keep 6-8 grade girls interested in STEM. This monthly program typically involved a female guest with a STEM career and an activity that highlighted the speaker's topic. Speakers included a geologist, a hydrogeologist, a college student majoring in STEM from MIT, and a Disney Imagineer. This program was intended in a global issue to address the problem that there are more men in STEM than women. Many participants expressed interest in helping with future topics, so the program will hopefully continue to flourish.

"Going through the process of helping girls maintain their interest in STEM, I realized how passionate I really am for math and engineering. I learned leadership skills, public speaking skills, and how to work as a group. It helped me realize that, if I set my mind to something, I can accomplish anything. I can also see how enthusiastic girls are in STEM, which gives me hope they will pursue STEM careers."



Communication is key!

Education, Healthy Relationships: Career Training Partnered with: Northwood High School

Claire O'Connor

South Coast Region, North Irvine Service Unit, Troop 1425 Girl Scout Ambassador, Northwood High School

Claire targeted the lack of communication skills in her community for her Gold Award Project. She educated high school students and planned social activities to promote healthy interpersonal skills, such as handshakes and eye contact. Through the dances, lunch time games and Student Forum seminars that Claire hosted, she was able to see an increase in healthy communication and involvement among the student body. The communication skills learned from her project will aid the students to be successful in their careers and lives.

"Communication is key to being a great leader. Throughout my project I had to communicate with school administration and delegate tasks to my team. I learned the importance of healthy communication and how to effectively work as a team. This project has inspired me to become more involved and work with others to improve communication in my community."



Vietnam Documentary

Poverty, Health, Environment and Sustainability: Hunger, Global Health, Clean Water Partnered with: The TongueOut Corporation

Claire Offenberger

South County Region, Ladera Valley Service Unit, Troop 261 "Tempest"
Girl Scout Ambassador, Orange County School of the Arts
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Orange Coast College (Film Production)/Director

Claire addressed the issue of the lack of awareness encompassing the poverty in Vietnam. She made a documentary about her experience with orphans, lepers, and communities that are still affected by the Vietnam War. In the last year, she visited Vietnam three times with the TongueOut Corporation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to serving impoverished children and the ill. The documentary screened at an event for several hundred people from socially conscious businesses and organizations. Proceeds went towards educational and medical supplies for the impoverished in Vietnam.

"This project expanded my worldview and perception of my own capabilities. I've become much more adept at improvising solutions with limited resources and collaborating with a wide variety of people, including those who don't even speak the same language as me. Above all, I have discovered that I did not exclusively "help" the impoverished Vietnamese people that are featured in my documentary, in reality, we truly helped each other."



Heroes Through the Ages

Military/Veterans' Affairs: Veterans' Assistance Partnered with: Lyons Air Museum

Elizabeth "Joy" Orr

Central Region: Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1015 "Aquila" Girl Scout Ambassador, Crean Lutheran High School

"Heroes Through the Ages" Elizabeth's Girl Scout Gold Award Project was the result of many video taped conversations with active and retired military personnel of various ages. These interviews were conducted in casual settings with both men and women, active and retired military, discussing a candid range of topics. As President of Crean Lutheran's Military Club, Joy has been actively supportive of the families of military and active military members. This support led to her passion, a documentary that embodies the sacrifice and dedication of active and retired military servicemen in hopes of inspiring appreciation in the community.

"I feel a leader should be dedicated and diligent, both qualities required in the completion of my Girl Scout Gold Award Project. These conversations with active and retired military ultimately showed me that my path was to continue in their footsteps. I am currently a Plebe at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York."



Healing Through Caring

Health, Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Mental Health, Diseases, Art Partnered with: CHOC Hospital

Haley Otto

Central Region: Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1015 "Aquila" Girl Scout Ambassador, Arnold O. Beckman High School

Haley hoped to help kids diagnosed with cancer and their families to manage their emotions in a positive way through art. She established an annual venture crew activity of creating activity packages for children at CHOC Hospital, and other local hospitals, as well as going around to other venture crews to teach lessons on handling emotions through art as a way to direct fear and anxiety.



You Are Not Alone

Health: Mental Health

Alyssa Oune

Northwest Region: Anaheim Service Unit, Troop 881 "Wisteria" Girl Scout Ambassador, Arnold O. Beckman High School

Allyssa partnered with a professional psychologist to educate others about obsessive-compulsive disorders and share techniques to address anxiety and stress.



Heart Healthy

Children's Issues
Partnered with: Westmont Elementary School, Ocean View School District

Natalie Ozawa

Northwest Region: Anaheim Service Unit, Troop 881 "Wisteria" Girl Scout Ambassador, Cypress High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Orthodontist

Natalie planned a two-day event for kindergartners to learn about the importance of eating healthy and exercising daily to prevent childhood obesity. In order to accomplish this, she gathered a team of teachers, coaches, and jump ropers to assist in managing and interacting with the children and made videos for teachers to use in their curriculum. On the first day, crafts and games were set up to illustrate to the children the different food groups that should be in their daily diets. The second day consisted of learning how to jump rope to incorporate into their exercise of the day.

"Working with young children to help fight against the national issue of childhood obesity has allowed me to learn how to use critical thinking in tough situations and to accept challenges as opportunities. From this project, I feel empowered to continue to help guide children in leading healthy lifestyles and realize that I want to be able to make a difference in the world and community around me."



Operation: Reading Garden

Education: Literacy Partnered with: Hayden Elementary School, Westminster School District

Alicia Pippert

Central Coast Region, West Garden Service Unit, Troop 2018
Girl Scout Ambassador, Magnolia High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: California State University, Fullerton/Attorney

I chose this project because i believe strongly that forming a love for reading at a young age truly helps one to become a better student and better citizen in the end. I noticed many elementary students were seemingly uninterested in reading, so i chose an elementary school to enact my project. After building the Garden and hosting the reading night at Hayden Elementary, many of the students there began to read more often, especially in their free time. It is my expectation that these students will continue to read, and be more successful in life because of it.

"As I completed this project, I learned important lessons along the way, such as how there are always ways to solve problems, even if they seem too difficult. I also learned that my voice will always matter, even when the people I am working with are older than I am."



STEM FEM Girls Inc. Club

Education, STEM: Career Training, Science, Technology, Engineering, Math Partnered with: Girls Incorporated of Orange County

Rachel Pollard

South Coast Region: Aliso Viejo Service Unit, Troop 734 Girl Scout Ambassador, Aliso Niguel High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Veterinarian

Rachel's project was designed to address the issue that girls in her high school were losing interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) classes. To address this issue, she created a STEM FEM club at her high school. She partnered with Girls Incorporated of Orange County to deliver age-appropriate and gender-appropriate STEM content. She exposed the girls to guest speakers and other related activities, while connecting them with likeminded students as a support group.

"This is the first time in 17 years when I took a project this big and was completely responsible for every aspect of it from start to finish. My Girl Scout Gold Award project has truly been a life changing experience, for me and hopefully for many of my STEM FEM members too."



B'nai Mitzvah Philanthropy Guidance

Civic Engagement: Community Development Partnered with: Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'a lot

Elin Radziminsky

Central Coast Region: HB Pierside Service Unit, Troop 424 Girl Scout Ambassador, Edison High School

Elin established a program at Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'a lot to help guide b'nai mitzvah students through the process of choosing, organizing, and carrying out a mitzvah "good deed" project to help the community.



Runoff Water Pollution Prevention

Environment and Sustainability: Clean Water Partnered with: Cypress City Hall and DAS Markers

Kimberly Ramirez

Northwest Region: La Cypress Park Service Unit, Troop 1544 Girl Scout Ambassador, Cypress High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Cal Poly Pomona (Chemical Engineering)/Chemical Engineer

Kimberly chose run-off water pollution as her issue because she wanted to inform members of her community about its existence and prevention. She purchased 100 markers that said "NO DUMPING DRAINS TO OCEAN" and led her team to place them on residential storm drains. In addition, she also held a booth at the Cypress festival where she informed members of her community about this issue and provided informational pamphlets as well as an educational diagram. This issue demonstrates how water pollution is a global issue that can be addressed by starting right here in our own city.

"My work with the Cypress Water Quality Manager, Gonzalo Vazquez, introduced me into the world of storm water pollution as well as its prevention. This project has taught be about the significance an individual can make on the world around them, as well as on the people around them. I am proud that I was able to make an impact and lead a project on a subject that continues to inspire me today."



It's Debatable

Children's Issues, Health: Mentoring, Self-esteem Partnered with: Orange Crescent School

Zoya Razak

Central Region, Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 1055 Girl Scout Ambassador, Canyon High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Fullerton College (Nursing)/Pediatric Nurse

There are many kids that all have their own unique abilities. In her community however, Zoya noticed that these kids were so engrossed in their own world that they had closed themselves off to other essential opportunities. Therefore Zoya created a Debate club that would challenge their ability to cope in a new situation. She did this by creating an online website as well as creating standard operating procedure books consisting of all the rules and regulations of the Debate league as well as other other useful things the debater must know to achieve the benefits of a life time.

"Since initiating my Gold Award project, I have learned to communicate, to work with others, and contribute ideas to help the next generation excel. I have gained confidence and a better sense of self knowing that I was able to reach out, take control, and accomplish my goal to it's fullest extent. And as cliche as it seems, I learned that you truly can accomplish anything you put your mind to."



Chasing After Perfection: A Documentary

Health: Mental Health, Self-image, Suicide Prevention Partnered with: Northwood High School

Renee Reed

South Coast Region, North Irvine Service Unit, Troop 1425 Girl Scout Ambassador, Northwood High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Psychologist

Renee chose to create Chasing After Perfection: A Documentary because she's passionate about raising awareness for teen depression. Renee also realized that teen depression was a really big problem in her community. To complete this project, she made a timeline and a budget and contacted current high school students, teachers, and parents. Renee showed her video at community clubhouses to parents and fellow peers in her community. This documentary will raise awareness for teen depression in her community and at Northwood High School.

"As I worked with my team to address the issue of teen depression in my community, I learned organizational skills and how prevalent teen depression is in teens today. By earning my Gold Award I was able to address an issue in my community and raise awareness and inspire others to act."



"Eco Action" Team

Environment and Sustainability: Preserving Outdoor Spaces
Partnered with: The Ecology Center, Monterey Bay Science Project, Life Lab, Myford Elementary School,
Tustin Unified School District

Marianna Robles-Godinez

Central Region: Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1015 "Aquila"
Girl Scout Ambassador, Arnold O. Beckman High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: San Diego State University (Marine Biology/
Environmental Studies and Oceanography)/Oceanographer/Environmental Scientist

Marianna reestablished the Myford Elementary Gardening Club in order to broaden the students' knowledge on the environment and further excite them about studying natural science. To address the lack of environmental efficacy and alleviate financial pressures of sustaining the garden, Marianna thoroughly developed a detailed timeline and budget, involving a multitude of environmentally focused individuals/organizations to assist her in building a strong educational program. Aside from establishing the club, Marianna received various donations, such as journals, for the students to note their experiences in the garden and developed a How-To/Activity Book to guide the students in future scientific endeavors.

"Through my constant interactions between the students, educators, and organizations, I learned to have confidence in my strong abilities to connect with and lead others, ultimately overcoming my timidness of approaching unfamiliar situations and refining my interpersonal and communication skills. By completing my Gold Award, as well as my 13 years as a Girl Scout, I feel more empowered to actively seek new challenges, knowing my enthusiasm and strength will carry me through."



Following Footprints

Poverty: Homelessness Partnered with: Precious Life Shelter

Riley Rojas

Northwest Region, Los Alamitos/Rossmoor Service Unit, Girl Scout Independent Girl Scout Ambassador, Los Alamitos High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: College (Political Science/Law/ International Affairs/Media/Broadcast)

This issue that Riley's project addressed was to advocate for more community awareness of the struggles of single mothers and the services provided by Precious Life Shelter, a local non - profit organization that provides services for homeless adult mothers. Riley designed a website and spoke at several different organizations to advocate for this cause. On her website, she wrote about the different obstacles these women overcame and how they are changing their lives and their children's lives for the better.

"Growing up with a single mother, I know and understand the hardships they face when raising children. While I was doing service work at Precious Life Shelter, this gave me a sense of purpose and I was able to develop a unique relationship with the women here because of my personal background. Earning my Gold Award allowed me to not only have a positive impact on others but to also become inspired."



Sew Much More

Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Visual Arts, Cultural Awareness Partnered with: University High School

Amy Santa Maria

South Coast Region, South Irvine Service Unit, Girl Scout Independent Girl Scout Ambassador, University High School

Amy started Sewing Club at University High School to teach teens how to sew after noticing the lack of opportunities for kids her age to learn the skill. Her target audience was students at her school who did not know how to sew. She wanted to show teens that sewing could be a fun and useful hobby that is not outdated and has lots of significance in cultures around the world. Amy organized the club and taught sewing lessons during meetings. They will donate a blanket they made to charity. The club will continue after she graduates.

"As I organized and led my club, I learned that a leader must also rely on others, so that we can work together and accomplish our goal more efficiently. Working with others and teaching them how to sew reinforced my passion for the arts and sharing art with others for them to enjoy."



Screen Creation to Raise Awareness of Plight of Kenyan Orphans

Education: Literacy Partnered with: African Child Foundation

Julia Shard

Central Region: Newport Harbor Service Unit, Troop 57 Girl Scout Ambassador, Corona del Mar High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Engineer

Since Julia's grandparents sponsor an orphan through the African Child Foundation, she created a portable, canvas screen for the organization. With the help of her team, she painted a Kenyan landscape on one side, and on the other, she displayed ACF's story with photos. This screen helps raise awareness of the needs of Kenyan orphans so that they may be sponsored, receive a quality education, and become productive members of society. The ACF Director at Our Lady Queen of Angels Church will continue to present the screen at various venues.

"This project made me comfortable in reaching out to others to ask for help, further developed my critical thinking skills, and gave me confidence in my ability to tackle global problems. I am planning on becoming an engineer in the future, and this project taught me how to solve problems and collaborate with a team. The success of my project has given me the confidence to face future challenges as a leader."



Learning Through Means of Creativity: Lego Building

Children's Issues, STEM: Mentoring, Engineering Partnered with: Fullerton Public Library

Malvika Sheth

Northwest Region: Fullerton/La Habra Service Unit, Troop 394 "Sovereign" Girl Scout Ambassador, Troy High School

Malvika created a free and local Lego/Duplo building program at the Fullerton Public Library to encourage children to express their creativity, build confidence, and develop their fine motor and social skills.



Pet Prep

Animals, Disaster Preparedness: Animal Safety, Natural Disasters Partnered with: City of Mission Viejo

Valerie Sierakowski

South County Region, Ladera Valley Service Unit, Troop 2608 Girl Scout Ambassador, Santa Margarita Catholic High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Saddleback College/Anesthesiologist or Child Psychologist

Valerie created the PetPrep project as a response to the deficit of attention paid to pets in the event of a crisis. This project was presented to pet owners across first Mission Viejo and then Orange County to instruct them on proper preparation, supplies, and techniques. Valerie partnered with the city of Mission Viejo to hold a booth at the 2015 Disaster Fair, which was the first of two workshops. Additionally, the contents of the project were also put up on a website of her creation, design, and development, petprep.org.

"I developed my leadership skills on this project by directing teams during the workshops and by teaching people how to create their kits. I especially developed the skill of talking clearly. Something I learned about myself while doing this project was how much I also need to know. To teach others, I first had to do much research and talking with professionals. as a result, I am more interested in disaster preparedness."



Sensory Garden

Disability: Disability and Special Needs Issues Partnered with: Capistrano Unified School District

Megan Smith

South County Region: Mission Viejo Service Unit, Troop 900 Girl Scout Ambassador, Capistrano Valley High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Saddleback Community College (Childhood Development)/Special Education Teacher

Megan created an outdoor sensory garden for the special education program at a nearby elementary school where she researched and built different activities for the students to exercise their five senses in a fun, safe, and wheelchair accessible environment. With the help of her neighbors, friends, special education department, and troop, she was able to lead her team into making a beautiful garden where students of all ages and sizes could come and use their senses in the outdoors.

"Being a person who wants to work in special education, I knew this project would not only spread my horizons and broaden my knowledge, but to also make the first steps in my career working with kids. I learned team working skills and contracting skills which I look forward to using in my future goals. Earning my gold award has inspired me to do more in the special education community, and to inspire others."



Staying Pawsitive

Animals, Poverty: Pet Care, Homelessness Partnered with: The Heart of Delight

Sarah Stumpf

Northeast Region, Yorba Linda East Service Unit, Troop 186 Girl Scout Ambassador, Yorba Linda High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, San Diego (Biological Sciences)/Nurse Practitioner

Through her Gold Award, Sarah aimed to help the homeless take care of what might be their only family or friend left- their dogs. With the support of The Heart of Delight, Sarah gave a presentation at a Cal State Fullerton on the importance of helping the dogs of the homeless, and has attended several monthly events in which she bathes, grooms, and remedies the flearidden fur of the dogs. Sarah's goal is to maintain the happiness of the dogs of the homeless so that, even if the homeless lack human company, they may always rely upon their furry friends.

"Through my Gold Award, I have realized the importance of helping those whom others wish to neglect. The gratitude of people in times of desperation truly makes one grateful for everything she has. This project has created a lifelong desire of mine to help people who otherwise might be forgotten."



Engineering the Community

STEM: Technology, Engineering, Robotics Partnered with: El Viento Foundation

Hannah Takasuka

Central Coast Region: Huntington Harbor Service Unit, Troop 778 Girl Scout Ambassador, Ocean View High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: John Hopkins University/Doctor or Biomedical Engineer

Hannah created an engineering club at her school to combine the aspects of STEM and serving the community. The highlight of the club was hosting the iEngineer Week, an engineering summer camp with Oak View, a Title 1 elementary school. She worked with fifth grade students in the El Viento organization, which focuses on helping the students in the economically disadvantaged Latino community to graduate high school, go to college, and succeed in life. Over 80% of the students said that they would someday want to become an engineer, and the club will continue under Hannah's high school.

"As Oak View is only a block away from my high school, completing my Gold Award taught me a lot about the community at my high school. I and my classmates who have a passion for STEM learned how to have a greater appreciation for those who represent minority ethnic groups at my school and the economic and discriminatory hardships they must endure to succeed in life."



Advocates Against Abuse

Healthy Relationships: Abuse Prevention Partnered with: Human Options

Amelia Tehrani

South County Region: Ladera Valley Service Unit, Troop 4321 Girl Scout Ambassador, San Juan Hills High School

Amelia partnered with Human Options to raise awareness about dating abuse and teach her peers how to differentiate healthy and abusive relationships and know what to do if they recognize or are faced with abuse.



Sun Safety

Health: Diseases, Hygiene, Fitness, Nutrition Partnered with: John Wayne Cancer Foundation

Lan To

Central Region, Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1279
Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: California State University Maritime
Academy (Financial Management)

Lan promoted the education and awareness on the prevention of skin cancer. She educated teens about how to take preventative measures to decrease the risk of skin cancer by working with John Wayne Cancer Foundation to bring in guest speakers to conduct two separate presentations, which were held for Fountain Valley High School's Red Cross and athletic teams. She had noticed that not much was taught in health classes about the prevention of skin cancer and sun safety. Lan implemented a more thorough lesson plan on how to prevent skin cancer into her school's health classes.



Benefits of Health, Fitness, and Nutrition

Health, Education: Fitness, Nutrition
Partnered with: Childhood Obesity Prevention and Education, Boys and Girls Club of Anaheim

Jamie Tran

Central Region: Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1279 Girl Scout Ambassador, Fountain Valley High School

Jamie partnered with the Childhood Obesity Prevention and Education Foundation to address increasing rates of childhood obesity by working with Boys and Girls Club of Anaheim to educate children and encourage healthy habits.



Teens Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention

Healthy Relationships: Domestic Violence Partnered with: International Tenshinkai Aikido Federation, QTD International

Kimberly Tran

Central Region, Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1279 "Lien Doan Chi Lang" Girl Scout Ambassador, Bolsa Grande High School

Kimberly's Gold Award Take Action project focused on teaching prevention and spreading awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault to teenagers. She also taught them on how to protect themselves if they get caught in compromised situations. Kimberly had a speaking symposium which consisted of a presentation from an FBI guest speaker, a self-defense lesson, and an Aikido Demonstration. The FBI guest speaker explained what domestic violence and sexual assault was. The self-defense lesson was a series of simple techniques that anyone can perform if they were in a compromised situation. Last, the Aikido Demonstration showed how classes would help.

"This project taught me many things. Having to contact many different people to ask for help improved my communication skills. Planning the whole project and its sustainability taught me how to manage my time wisely if I wanted to meet the deadline. I learned that I am a determined person, at first I thought it was impossible to finish the project, but I was able to persevere through and get my Gold Award."



Engineering 101

STEM: Engineering Partnered with: Boys and Girls Club of Anaheim

Melinda Tran

Central Region: Tustana Service Unit, Troop 1279 Girl Scout Ambassador, South High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Engineering

Melinda taught hands-on engineering classes for kids in order to promote interest in science and teach critical thinking skills. She made lesson plans for each week that she came to visit as well as extras for when things went wrong. She also spent time talking to and observing the kids to help her plan out lessons. To help her stay on track, she made a timeline. Melinda left extra lessons plans and made a website in order to allow the Boys and Girls Club to continue on with her lessons after she left.

"While working on my project, I learned the importance of time management and to always be prepared for when things go wrong. Working with large groups of kids also helped me learn to become more assertive and a better leader. Earning my Gold Award gave me a sense of importance and showed me that I can help fix community issues."



Operation: Child's Corner

Education, Civic Engagement, STEM: Literacy, Community Development, Math Partnered with: Garden Grove Library

Sophie Tran

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

My project addressed the issue of space that some libraries didn't have a place for people to learn and enrich their knowledge. When events like Math Help and Kinder Care were hosted, many patrons have to use the big kid tables, making it difficult. By creating these tables, it's easy, convenient, and practical for the patrons to use. To mention, my project comes with a blueprint. It allows the library to create their own/share with other libraries my idea.

"This project has done a lot for me. It's taught me that I am capable of doing so much and can exceed even my own expectations. I realized that my Gold Award wasn't meant to impress and force the next girl to live up to my expectations. Instead, this project was meant for me to able to make a small difference in a big community all while having fun."



Let's Dance

Disability, Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Disability and Special Needs Issues, Performing Arts Partnered with: Impulse Dance Center

Emily Vees

South Coast Region, Niguel Coast Service Unit, Troop 1269
Girl Scout Ambassador, Aliso Niguel High School
Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Loyola Marymount University/Environmental Scientist

Emily created a video sharing the benefits of dance for special needs kids in order to educate parents with special needs kids. She wanted to help share with these benefits in an area that didn't provide information about this already. After making a timeline and outline for video by using the many different skills it required, she filmed classes and interviews of special needs children and their parents. She hopes to continue this video being shared through the studio Impulse Dance Center.

"Throughout the process of my Good Award, I learned better organizational and management skills that helped me to complete my project. I learned that I am ambitious and passionate about things that I set my mind to and I hope to let my continued interest guide me towards the direction of altruism and compassion."



Combating GMOs

Education, Health: Nutrition, Diseases, Global Health Partnered with: Organic Consumer's Association

Shriya Verma

South Coast Region, Aliso Viejo Service Unit, Troop 1612 Girl Scout Ambassador, Aliso Niguel High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Berkeley (Political Science)/Human Rights Lawyer for the United Nations

Shriya started a club at her high school to spread awareness about the potential dangers of GMOs in our food. Shriya educated her peers through monthly meetings at school--she wanted to educate her peers about organic food options and the potential health benefits of these foods, so she reached out to the Organic Consumer's Association for information regarding this issue. Through these meetings, she helped spark an interest in her peers about alternative foods. To take her project one step further, she met with her school district's food director to try and get organic foods into school lunches.

"Through my club meetings, I learned how to educate and effectively spread an important message to my peers. I learned how to be a leader and stand up for an issue that I am passionate about. Earning my gold award truly taught me that I am capable of inspiring others."



The Eczema Corner

Health: Diseases Partnered with: National Eczema Association

Hannah Vinh

Central Coast Region, HB Pierside Service Unit, Troop 963 Girl Scout Ambassador, Edison High School

Hannah worked towards raising awareness for eczema, as well as helped others with eczema. She reached out to various medical offices, associations, and public services to find more information about eczema and how to manage it She created a website to provide more about eczema, tips, helpful links, and experiences; all of the information given came from medical professionals, personal experiences from various volunteers, and many different eczema association. She was able to give out displays to various offices, set up booths at local libraries, and reach out to many people.

"Throughout my Gold Award, I learned many valuable life skills. Through working with numerous volunteers, and many different organizations, I learned the importance of good communication, time management, and not being afraid to ask. I chose this project because it was a cause very near to my heart, and by completing it, I realized that it was important to choose topics that held personal meaning."



The Radiance of Reading

Education: Literacy
Partnered with: Fairmont Elementary School Day Care and Boys and Girl Club

Allyson Vuong

South Coast Region: South Irvine Service Unit, Troop 1809 Girl Scout Ambassador, Esperanza High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Family Doctor

Allyson addressed the global issue of literacy, specifically in children. To do this she created a club at her school called Literacy Advocates Club that reads to Kindergartners and First Graders at a Fairmont Elementary School's Day Care center monthly. She chose this project because she noticed a drastic decrease in children's love for reading. At each reading session, she and her readers would quiz and note the number of correct answers the children got in order to measure their reading comprehension. The club will continue to run itself by holding elections each spring.

"I learned how to communicate effectively with various age groups and motivate others while inspiring them. I learned that I am able to delegate manage my time, and definitely need to, in order to keep everything running efficiently. This opportunity to serve my community by doing something that I love is what has sparked my interest to try to extend this program to other high schools."



Homelessness Awareness Club

Poverty: Homelessness Partnered with: Esperanza High School

Natasha Vuong

Central Region: Garden Valley Service Unit, Troop 1809 Girl Scout Ambassador, Esperanza High School

Natasha focused on bridging the gap between the privileged students at her school and underprivileged homeless people by creating a club that focuses on helping the homeless through hands on service events. Her goal was to both help students to learn vital new life experiences while also positively impacting the lives of others in need. Her project benefited homeless people in Orange County through service projects giving students opportunities to interact directly with homeless people so they could connect personally and better understand their struggles.



Operation Beautification: Main Library/Pond Project

Environment and Sustainability, Animals: Preserving Outdoor Spaces, Animal Rights Partnered with: Garden Grove Community Senior Center

Dallie Weaver

Central Coast Region: West Garden Service Unit, Troop 2390 Girl Scout Ambassador, Garden Grove High School

Dallie worked to educate her community about the decreasing Monarch Butterfly population by hosting a "Butterfly week" at the local library and built a butterfly garden at the Community Senior Center to increase butterfly habitat in Garden Grove.



Conservation of the Western Bluebird: Building a Bluebird Trail

Environment and Sustainability: Preserving Outdoor Spaces, Animal Rights Partnered with: Cornell University

Kathleen "Kate" Wegener

Northeast Region: Santiago Creek Service Unit, Girl Scout Independent Girl Scout Ambassador, Orange Lutheran High School

Kate created a bluebird trail to facilitate the conservation of the Western Bluebird, including placing 22 boxes throughout Orange and Los Angeles Counties, with information about the number of western bluebirds fledged from each nest box is forwarded Cornell for a long term study being conducted on the resurgence of bluebirds in America, contributing to important research.



Literacy For All

Education: Literacy Partnered with: Boys and Girls Club, Black and Latino Men Read

Alyssa White

South County Region: Ladera Valley Service Unit, Troop 261 "Tempest" Girl Scout Ambassador, Dana Hills High School

Alyssa's goal for her Literacy For All project was to promote a love of reading for the middle school age children at the Boys and Girls Club. Alyssa designed, built, and painted a large bookcase, and provided seating to create a cozy library area. She worked with the founder of Black and Latino Men Read, a program that encourages young male students of color to read. She collected over 600 donated books, designed a website with fun reading games, and organized a grand opening event to unveil the library. Volunteers plan to continue the reading program in the future.

"As I worked on my Gold Award project to promote literacy in my community, I learned the importance of planning ahead, and communicating effectively with my team. I enjoyed the challenge of overcoming obstacles, and figuring out how to coordinate all the pieces of the project. I realized how much I enjoy working with children, and plan to continue promoting literacy in the future."



Reflection Garden

Health, Environment and Sustainability: Mental Health, Preserving Outdoor Spaces Partnered with: Niguel Botanical Preserve

Alessandra Wise

South Coast Region, Niguel Coast Service Unit, Troop 1269 Girl Scout Ambassador, Aliso High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: San Francisco State University (Business Marketing)/Merchandise Marketing

Alessandra was inspired to provide her community with a Reflection Garden as place to reflect, meditate and be at peace. She worked closely with Laguna Niguel City leaders and extensively with Niguel Botanical Preserve Board members. Alessandra implemented a plan to contract with an architect, masonry contractors and various business to develop and construct the Reflection Garden which consists of a stone wall being built with an inlaid bronze plaque with the quote, "Be at Peace with Yourself and Bring Peace to the World," two sitting benches and beautiful flower bed.

"Because of my Gold Award work, my interpersonal and communication skills, as well as my adaptability have already grown tremendously. This project has shown me that there is always room to grow in different aspects of one's life and one person can make a difference in our community. I am also encouraged and more confident to continue to form strong relationships with people in various aspects of my life."



Japanese American Internment Camp Awareness

Education, Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Cultural Awareness, Historic Preservation Partnered with: Japanese American National Museum

Lauren Wong

Northwest Region, Anaheim Service Unit, Troop 881 "Wisteria" Girl Scout, John F. Kennedy High School

Japanese American Internment is not known to the public or covered in history classes. Lauren wanted to educate others in and outside her community so that they are aware that these events took place in history. She started a patch program for scouts and public at the Japanese American National Museum to raise awareness of the Japanese American Concentration Camps. She worked with the museum and their education board to create work books with activities for students and adults. Participants earned a patch she designed. The booklets are on the museum website and front desk to continue educating the community.

"Working to educate others about the Japanese American Concentration Camps allowed me to develop strong communication skills and learn about the most efficient ways to educate various age groups. My Gold Award Project allowed my community to see the importance of history and expose an often forgotten part of it."



Breast Cancer Awareness

Health: Diseases Partnered with: Breast Cancer Solutions

Julia Wong

Central Coast Region, HB Pierside Service Unit, Troop 1380 Girl Scout Ambassador, Hunting Beach High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Chapman University, Loyola Marymount University or University of California, Irvine/Helping Others

Julia was inspired by her mom's fight with breast cancer to help other breast cancer patients in recovery and spread awareness about this important issue. She created a Breast Cancer Awareness Field Hockey Game and Event in addition to making over 100 care packages for cancer patients in need. By focusing on the prevalent need for breast cancer education and prevention within her community, she has successfully illustrated how this problem must be addressed on a global scale. The information that people have learned will remain as they continue to inspire and teach others about the importance of breast cancer awareness.

"As I worked for countless hours and days to spread awareness about the importance of breast cancer and assist breast cancer patients in need, I developed leadership skills that I never thought possible. After finishing my Girl Scout Gold Award project, I learned many important lessons and gained invaluable skills. I gained a better sense of myself after this project and also discovered how much I truly enjoy helping others."



Planet Protection: Who's Job Is It? Everyone's!

Environment and Sustainability: Conservation Partnered with: Environmental Nature Center

Victoria Woolfolk

Central Region: Tustana Service Unit, Girl Scout Independent Girl Scout Ambassador, Foothill High School

Hiking Butte Lake in Lassen National Park, shiny objects in the water caught Victoria's attention and she scooped them up only to discover TRASH: lots of it. She thought if there is this much trash in a National Park then it is a problem everywhere. She created a program to teach school children and parents the importance of reduce, reuse and recycle. Participants completed a survey and were contacted to hear how they changed their behavior. More than 300 people participated. Program materials are available for future use, participants will to continue to modify their behavior based on what was learned

"Through my Gold Award project I learned that one person can make a difference by taking action on their own and that creating a plan and inspiring a team to get behind a project creates the opportunity to reach many more people and to have a much larger impact on changing my world."



Save That Drop

Environment and Sustainability: Preserving Outdoor Spaces, Water Conservation Partnered with: Conserve Water.com, Sakioka Nursery

Kristine Yada

Northwest Region, Anaheim Service Unit, Troop 881 "Wisteria" Girl Scout Ambassador, Arnold O. Beckman High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Davis (Clinical Nutrition)/Nutritionist

Kristine created a program designed to teach fifth-graders about the severity of the drought in California as well as the importance of water conservation. In order to carry out this project, she developed a proposal, timeline and curriculum with the assistance of fifth-grade teachers, ConserveWater.com and Sakioka Nursery. Kristine carried out her program at a local elementary school in accordance with the school's annual Earth Week in order to spread awareness on the campus on how everybody, big and small, can make an impact on using Earth's limited resources wisely.

"After completing my project, I learned that change is possible with a little shift in perspective. Working with both children and adult has allowed me to take on a more flexible and focused mindset; by working with an array of individuals, I have gained a deeper understanding of how to assess situations and work around problems. By completing the Gold Award, I feel more connected with my environment and community."



Marine Support & Appreciation

Military/Veterans' Affairs: Veterans' Issues Partnered with: Miramar Raider Squadron in San Diego

Kari Yamamoto

Northwest Region: Anaheim Service Unit, Troop 881 "Wisteria" Girl Scout Ambassador, Long Beach Poly High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: California State University, Long Beach (Psychology)

Kari chose this topic for her Gold Award Project because she believed the Marines did not receive the support and appreciation they truly deserved. Her primary target audience was the general public and Kari wanted to educate them on the sacrifices our armed forces make on a daily basis. By showing the Marines that what they do for our country is appreciated, Kari assisted in hosting a Thanksgiving Luncheon for the Marines and provided gifts for the children on base during the holidays. Her project will continue beyond her involvement thanks to the support group Kari created.

"Thanks to my Gold Award Project, I learned the importance of good communication, budgeting, time management and organization. Mastering these characteristics helped me to be responsible with money and my time as well as building strong relationships with people who helped me be successful in completing my project. I also learned that good organizational skills will lessen my work load."



Healthy Eating Habits

Health: Fitness, Nutrition Partnered with: YMCA Hidden Hills Program Center

Zoe Young

South Coast Region: Niguel Coast Service Unit, Troop 1368 Girl Scout Ambassador, Dana Hills High School

Zoe addressed childhood obesity, creating a program for 35 children at YMCA Hidden Hills Program Center to learn about healthy recipes, easy stretches and exercises, and portion control.



Running Towards Hope

Children's Issues, Poverty, Civic Engagement: Mentoring, Homelessness, Community Development Partnered with: Thomas House

Angelina Zamora

South Coast Region, Heart of Irvine Service Unit, Troop 1809 "Huong Viet" Girl Scout Ambassador, Santiago High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: University of California, Berkeley (Chemistry)/Doctor

Angelina's Gold Award Project, Running Towards Hope, encourages teens to relieve the problem of homelessness. She taught teens inside Keystone and Boys & Girls Club how to create a 5K/Walk-A-Thon in order to raise funds for the homeless families of Garden Grove. This was done by donating all profits to Thomas House, who in turn had bought supplies like bedding and food for homeless families. This project came from her friends who had required help from Thomas House in the past and will continue on as it will become an annual event.

"My Gold Award Project taught me to think on my feet as problems arise and helped me to become a better leader. As days went by, I became more adept at communicating to teens and adults in general until I was able to speak confidently. The most important part of the project, though, was that I discovered my passion to help others and giving other people that opportunity to give."



Fine Art Workshops

Arts, Culture, and Heritage, Children's Issues: Visual Arts, Mentoring Partnered with: Rancho Santa Margarita Library, Rhyman Arts, Northwood Art Club

Julie Zhang

South Coast Region, South Irvine Service Unit, Troop 887 "Crossroads" Girl Scout Ambassador, Northwood High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: Animator/Illustrator

Julie created the fine arts workshops in order to address the lack of sufficient and properly funded art classes available for middle school and high school students. She contacted the Santa Margarita Library, which was willing to accommodate her art workshops. With the help of volunteers from art and volunteer organizations such as Northwood High School art club, and the Santa Margarita Library. She held three workshops covering still life drawing, basic pencil drawing, basic anatomy, stylizing characters, elements of art, and basic shading. With the classes each student could learn the basics of how to draw.

"I am passionate about visual arts and I know that without the support of parents who put me into art classes early on I would most likely have not discovered this passion. With these art classes I wanted to not only help some teenagers discover their passion for art but also help break the mystery about drawing for students."





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

Celebrating 100 Years of Changing the World



iDREAM Express

Poverty, Health, Education: Hunger, Nutrition, Hygiene, Global Health, Literacy Partnered with: iDREAM Express

Liza Villanueva

Northwest Region, Fullerton/La Habra Service Unit, Girl Scout Independent Girl Scout Ambassador, Troy High School Future Aspiration/Career Goal: American University

For Liza's Girl Scout Gold Award, she established iDREAM Express, a nonprofit organization dedicated to establishing mobile learning centers around the world. She started by equipping a vehicle with tables and chairs, eating utensils, tablets, books, and school and hygienic supplies.

"The most successful aspect of my project was the rallying several different groups/organizations and people that came together to contribute their resources, energy time, and skills to show the children that people care for them. I loved raising awareness for this cause and sharing the sense of urgency for education because today's youth is our future! I learned that this is something I want to do for the rest of my life and that I can do anything, even a project as large as this, as long as I have the passion, determination, and vision. Of course, I could not have done this alone and I discovered that many people share the same heart for this cause and if you find those people who genuinely care, we can truly make a difference together."

2015 National Young Woman of Distinction

Girl Scouts of Orange County is proud to announce that Liza Villanueva was selected as one of ten 2015 National Young Women of Distinction for her Gold Award project, "iDREAM Express."

After visiting the Philippines for the first time at seven years old, Anaheim Girl Scout Liza Villanueva discovered that many children do not attend school because of their lack of resources, money, or distance. Nine years later, Liza decided to take action.

Establishing iDREAM Express, a nonprofit organization that establishes mobile learning centers around the word, Liza ensured that very week, a vehicle travels to two locations in the Philippines where children of all ages are bathed, have their wounds and eye/skin infections treated, receive slippers, and are taught reading, writing, and math. They also receive a hot lunch and have the chance to sing, dance, and play games. Liza plans plan to expand her project and create more mobile learning centers in Mexico and India.

For her extraordinary leadership over a project with measureable and sustainable impact, Liza was selected by Girl Scouts of the USA as one of ten 2015 **National Young Women of Distinction**, the highest honor in Girl Scouting.





"We are excited that Liza has been recognized as a 2015 National Young Woman of Distinction. Liza exemplifies the lasting positive impact that Girl Scouts are having on their communities throughout Orange County," - Nancy Nygren, CEO, Girl Scouts of Orange County

We're so proud of Liza and her accomplishments. Through her work, the lives of so many of children will be forever changed.

(pictured left) Liza Villanueva is recognized as one of 10 2015 National Young Women of Distinction by Girl Scouts of the USA CEO Anna Maria Chavez. (Photo Courtesy of GSUSA.)

Girl Scouts of Orange County 2016 Girl Scout Silver Award Recipients

Congratulations to 2016 Girl Scout Silver Award Recipients! The Girl Scout Silver Award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouting for girls in sixth through eighth grades. Each Silver Award Recipient develops a Take Action project to help improve their community and the world, and demonstrates that they are leaders who are organized, determined, and dedicated to contributing to the community in purposeful and meaningful ways.

Annie Boon

Keerti

Boyapati

Katelyn

Boyster

Chloe Bovne

Cholee Booth

Faye Bostrom

Ana Sofia Botero

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 six hundred twenty three recipients who submitted their names between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016.

Cami Acheson Samantha Adams Maya Agrawal Victoria Aguilar Anastasia Aguirre Hannah Al Muhajab Ohoud Al Sharafi Amaya Aldrich Sarah Allen Melina Alsworth Phoebe Alva Sasha Anand Holland Allebes Anderson Gabriela Anguili Tanem Apay Alyssa Arbogast Mia Arce Nicci Arentsen Madye Arundale Nicole Aubort Adelina Awtry Madison Baltes Rachel Bang Taylor Banning Katherine Bantle Fynn Barbara Aubrey Barker Olivia Barnett Sarah Baroway **Taylor Bartlett** Catilin Baxter Abigail Beckelheimer Jenna Beining Anastasia Bekis

Bailey Boyster Stephanie Bradford Jordan Briggs Grace Briquelet Giovanna Broderick Paige Brooks Lauren Brown Sierra Brumbaugh Sydney Bryne Kavcie Budd Kira Bui Karen Bui Emily Burkhardt Rachelle Burton Genesis Cabral Genesis Cabral Cameron Cabrera Alyssa Cairns Alexia Calderon Ana Canning Gianna Cara Antonella Cardenas **Emily Carter** Hannah Carter Taylor Cartwright Kayleigh Cassidy Soleil Berkson Michelle Castellanos Talia Bernacchi Ashley Cawhorn Nia Chambers Rebecca Bernstein Katy Berry Alyson Chang Mackenzie Biarbie Ashley Chang Elaine Chao Lillian Biddle Ashley Chau Brynna Bishop Samantha Bivens-Thu Chau Andrea Chen Janda Leah Black Morgan Cheng Catherine April Chernilla Blackmore April Chernilla Dahlia Bonilla Olivia Whitney Bonin Chilvers

Jackie Chmiel Kara Chu Stephanie K. Chun Emily Chung Chelsea Chung Olivia Reason Chung Genique Clark Kathryn Claudi-Magnussen Sophia Clay Alexandra Conley Ewusia Cook Ciara Corbett-Brown Malia Cortez Ella Cramer Payton Curley Alexis Cybulski Laura Davert Alexandra Davis Jene'Grace DeGrood Lilia DeMaio Lvdia Denk Arianna Derosa Megan Diaz Isabella Diersing Hannah Dinh Tiffany Dinh Ashley Do Kahlen Do Kaitlin Do Kathy Do Genyss Duncan Kylie Dunteman Dana Duong Danielle Eby Heather Edwards Lauren Edwards Caroline Ellis Mackenzie Eloe Celina Emami Sara Enright Sarah Ensign Megan Ensign Isabella Espenschied Kimberly Evensen

Kaitlyne Fallahi

Fiona Fathauer

Alexis Fallahi

Elizabeth Fessler Briana Fieffer Mia Fineberg Ashlynn Flores Cailey Fono Aislin Fonseca Rachel Franciosa Hallie Elizabeth Francis Xitlalit Franklin Lauren Fujitani Samantha Funck Samantha Galli Katrina Galloway Elizabeth Garabedian Isabella Garcia Sarah Garreton Alexa Ghalwash Aliza Ghandi Grace Gilmore Leandra Gimenez Kaitlyn N. Girgis Marlena Gnasso Tatum Going Greta Graeler Josephine Gray Corinne Green Lina Green Emma Greenblatt Abigail Griffin Alexandria Avila Griffin Shelby Groussman Sofia Guerrero Katelyn Gwozdz Vanessa Hailey Naomi Hampton Nooree Han Brianne Hanamoto Caitlin Hane Summer Hanks Katerina Hanks Lauren Hanscom Mackenzie Hartge-Riddle Lauren Harvey Sana Hasnain Rebecca Hawkes Brenna Hayden Amanda Havnes Morgan Healey

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Alexandra Jelladiar Peyton Jennison Kate Jensen Alana Johnson Julia Johnston Alanah S. Juezan Claire Jun Jackie Junkes Aleeza Kadri Iman Kadri

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Amreet Kaur Olivia Keller Katie Kemmerer Mikayla Kendall Chloe Kennedy Kelsey Keuning Melody Kha Olivia Kilroy Kaylin Kim Leah Kong

Taylor Kooken Corinne Kopp Marlise Korzep Amanda Kowalski Bella Kravitz Amber Kresch Katie Kubiatko Laura Kubiatko Leah Kurihara Zoie Labus Kavlin Laghaei Melayna Lasky Samantha Lau Lindsey Lau Kathie Le Ann Le Vy Le Sylva Vo Le Deann Le Lillian Le Nancy Le Irene Lee Jordan Lee

Madison Lee
Jacqueline Lembesis
Hazel Lenoir
Casey Leon
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Dana Levenson
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Nova Lewis
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Sage Lewotsky
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Emily Liu

Sophia Lee

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Allison Major Devin Malast Aine Mallory Madison Marchant Melanie Marchant Akacia Marchbanks Isabella Marcovecchio

Julia Marks
Claire Marshall
Maren Marshall
Charlotte Marsoun
Nicole Martinez
Alexa Mascola
Nicole Massau
Claire Massick
Shayla Mauerman
Lily McCann
Hailey McCarthy
Alana McCormick

Maggie McDougall Lucy McHenry Jordan McRitchie Sarah McWhirter Kelly Meehan Clarissa Mejia Caroline Mendoza Montserrat Mendoza Teresa Mendoza Azariah Metoyer Emma Meza Jessica Miley Grace Miller Jennifer Mills Aubrey Mills

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Delaney Nefulda

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Jennifer Nguyen
Michelle Nguyen
Quinnie Nguyen
Tina Nguyen
Nicole Nguyen
Serena Nguyen
Maria Nguyen
Bao-Tran Nguyen
Amber Nguyen
Lynnie Nguyen
Vivian Nguyen
Lynnie Nguyen
Vy Nguyen
Emi Nishida
Olivia Niz
Kendra Nugent

Jenna Nunnally Yasmin Oaklev Caitlin O'Brien Cori O'Campo Maia Oganeku Audrey Oh Niki Okimura Amy Ollendorf Emily Ord Priscilla Oropeza Emmersen Orozco Brooke Orrill Taylor Ota Abigail Otellio Kristen Ott Jessica Owen

Corinne Padar

Kaitlyn Pak

Julianna Paris Aimee Park Judith Park Sharon Park Erin Park Carlie Parsons Isabella Pasino Julia Patterson Francesca Paturzo Ashley Paulsen Megan Peck Natasha Peña-Wijayawickrama Sarah Pence Jacqueline Penfield Lauren Petroff Tammy Truc Pham Phoebe Pham Angela Pham Jenny Pham Justina Pham Uyen Phan Maddie

Phantumabamrung

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Ishika

Sameth

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Schelstraete
Anna Schiebeck
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Sierra Schulz
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Nhu Vu

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Angelina White

Annika Wiederin
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Margaret Willis
Jeanene Wilson
Kyndle Winchester
Emily Winningham
Kelly Winters
Sierra Wise
Adelaine Woltkamp

Adelaine Woltkamp Adeline Woltkamp Arden Jade Woltman Rachel Wong Kayla Woodson Diane Worsley Morgan Wright Kellie Yada Jenna Yagi Adele Yoon Julia York Isra Yousef

Nina Zand Christine Zarske Amber Zeng Amy Zeng Megan Zolinsky

Ashley Yuen

Lauren Yuen

Note: Silver Award Take Action projects may be conducted as a troop or group or individual. Awardee names are listed individually in alphabetical order by last name for ease of indexing.

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