


girl scouts
of connecticut



THE 2019
Gold Award
GIRL SCOUTS

The Gold Award is the highest award a girl can earn in Girl Scouting. An award with national standards, it acknowledges an individual's accomplishments, leadership, commitment, creativity, and personal effort in trying to make the world a better place. Each Gold Award project solves a community issue and improves lives while girls build their personal leadership skills and inspire others to community action.

A Gold Award Girl Scout's accomplishments reflect leadership and citizenship skills that set her apart as a community leader. The award is a major milestone in a girl's life and an extension of all she has learned through her Girl Scout experience.

The Girl Scout Gold Award recognizes that for girls to become leaders they need to become knowledgeable, involved, and proactive. They need to lead the way.

Discover—Girls understand themselves and their values and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world;

Connect—Girls care about, inspire, and team with others locally and globally;

Take Action—Girls act to make the world a better place.



Above all else, the achievement of the Gold Award makes a girl understand what a difference one person can make, what one girl in a leadership role can do, and how one person's vision can inspire positive change.

Congratulations to this year's Gold Award Girl Scouts!

2019 GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUTS



Lauren Ashley Adrezin
EAST LYME

Lauren wanted to help physically-limited residents of her town safely participate in aquatic activities, so she published an informational booklet and website on accessible outdoor recreation. Lauren currently majors in Rehabilitation Services at the University of Maine at Farmington and regularly augments the website with new knowledge from her studies. Her ultimate aim is to become a rehabilitation counselor or occupational therapist.



Annalise Bazzano
NORWALK

Annalise launched the “Rock-a-Bye Baby” project, a CD of classical music recordings which introduced infants at Stamford Hospital to music to help them enter life happier and with increased cognitive ability. Stamford Hospital will sustain the project by circulating 100 copies of the CD and handouts among their patients. Annalise continues to share her work through posters and presentations in the hopes of inspiring a widespread affinity for classical music. She hopes to major in business in college, but to keep music as a secondary study and lifelong hobby.



Charlotte Anglade
RIDGEFIELD

To address issues of mental health in teen girls, Charlotte renovated a room in Danbury’s Family and Children’s Aid group home, creating a relaxation space replete with yoga mats, a miniature library, journals, an essential oils diffuser, and an outdoor garden. Her room and website, girlsdestress.com, serves the community to this day. She will graduate from Ridgefield High School in 2020.



Sabrina Boccuzzi
NEWTOWN

Sabrina established a “seed bank” at the C. H. Booth Library which enables library users to “check out” seeds, plant them, and return them to be “checked out” again. The goal is to acclimate the seeds to local soil to increase their chances of survival, thus expanding the variety of locally-thriving flora. The library has taken over the seed bank and will continue to update the materials she created so seeds will grow in her community and help sustain our climate. Sabrina will graduate from Newtown High School in 2020, and she hopes to study photography in the future.



Rosa Arini
PLAINVILLE

Rosa noticed the problem of homelessness in her community and decided to minister to the needs of the local homeless by collecting baskets filled with basic supplies. She encouraged her neighborhood to actively combat homelessness by designing a “Baskets of Love” drive which she hopes will become an annual fixture. A graduate of the Sports and Medical Sciences Academy, she now studies at Central Connecticut State University.



Kat Bonomo
SOUTHBURY

To spread awareness of and encourage action on today’s most pressing environmental issues, Kat founded the Eco-Friends club at Pomperaug High School. The club’s central accomplishment was “Eco Week” last October, an entire school week dedicated to educating her community about climate change and clean water. Club members engaged their classmates in discussion all week long with visual aids and supporting materials. Eco-Friends will continue after Kat graduates this year, with new officers replacing her and the other founding members.

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Allison Renee Brea
GREENWICH

Allison contributed three new initiatives to Bridgeport Project Connect, an annual event for the needy in the local community. Under her supervision, over 2,000 undergarments were distributed, attendees were supplied with fresh food, and attendees' children were given a play area. Allison also designed the event logo, recruited volunteers, and publicized the event on social media. After graduating from Greenwich High School this year, she would like to pursue a science or mathematics-related major.



Olivia Buse
WILTON

Olivia developed the LGBT Ed Project to assist local LGBT young people and to educate their families and friends. The four components of her presentation address the various types of romantic attraction, the common categories of sexuality, the spectrum of gender identity, and a "crash course" as a succinct summary. The Gay-Lesbian-Straight Education Network will continue to promote her work throughout the state in the future. Upon finishing her first year at Furman University, Olivia plans to major in history, with the ultimate goal of becoming a history professor or museum curator.



Julia Breen
NORWALK

To educate young girls about the impact of female musicians and women in the music industry, Julia created "Support Your Local Girl Band" – a project which involved poster presentations, an Instagram account focused on women in music, and a benefit show with her band "Similar Kind" for the public. Additionally, Julia and her band participated in a local benefit concert, "Girl Rising," to raise money to empower girls pursuing musical activities. Julia will go on to study music technology at NYU this fall.



Sabrina Capodicci
SOUTHBURY

Sabrina addressed the lack of resources available to families of Alzheimer's patients by creating a set of four books available for free online download in several languages. The books contain stories and activities as well as conversation starters for people of different generations, all outfitted with options to fill in personalized information and photos. These are especially useful for patients who live in facilities or otherwise separate from their loved ones. The books are available on a website which will never expire, and Sabrina plans to continue to recruit polyglot students to translate the stories into more languages. She will graduate from the Canterbury School in 2020.



Haley Breisblatt
ARMONK, NY/GREENWICH

Haley targeted the pollution problem on the beaches of Kennebunkport, Maine, by galvanizing clean-up crews and orchestrating programs to educate the community on the problem of (and their role in the solution to) litter. This clean-up and recycling program will continue even after Haley graduates this spring from Byram Hills High School and goes on to the Massachusetts College of Art and Design.



Sophie Cassarino
DURHAM

Sophie helped educate residents in an assisted-living facility in information technology, providing workshops on the internet and other digital resources, with the goal of helping them feel better-acquainted with modern life. She helped the residents set up Google accounts, get email addresses, and taught them how to browse the internet. She will graduate from Hopkins High School in 2020 and hopes to study creative writing and mythology in college, at which point she will pass her educational position on to her equally-tech-savvy brother.

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Lauren Castle
RIDGEFIELD

Lauren attended to kindergarten-age children who had not gone to preschool. Her literacy project, “The Right Start,” included read-aloud circles and book-related activities, and the culminating book drive enabled her to send each child home with 19 kindergarten-level books. The host school, located in Danbury, will sustain the program in future years, enabling students to enter school armed with literacy and social skills. After graduating from Ridgefield High School this spring, she envisions herself pursuing a career in STEM.



Emma DaSilva
NEWTOWN

To encourage healthy dietary habits, Emma organized “Mission Nutrition,” creating recipes (in both English and Spanish) based on commonly-donated ingredients at food pantries and sponsored food drives at five pantries across the state. She plans to sustain the project’s impact by consistently updating its website with new and inclusive recipes. Upon her graduation from Newtown High School this year, she will turn her ambitions toward a career in the medical field.



Molly Cioffi
NEW CANAAN

Molly collaborated with the Star Rubino Center on an inspirational project for disabled children and their families. She supplied therapists with toolkits and toy bags to bring to their patients on home visits. She also wrote a book describing her personal experience with Down syndrome. These activities have served as the subject of her speeches at the STAR GALA and her own New Canaan High School commencement ceremony. She now attends Lesley University, after which she hopes to work as a tourism-events planner.



Margaret Dean
FAIRFIELD

To give older residents in her community a large-group event to look forward to, Margaret organized the Senior Prom at the Bigelow Center for Senior Activities in May 2018. Her background in dance helped her to plan and execute a ballroom event. With the help of volunteers both before and during the event, plus a few preparatory dance classes, she was able to bring a number of participants together and create a long-lasting happy memory. Margaret graduated Fairfield Ludlowe High School last year.



Grace Collins
BROOKFIELD

In an effort to combat the stigma surrounding mental illness, Grace painted murals with inspirational quotations at a local elementary and middle school, brought a speaker in to a middle and high school to discuss depression, hosted another speaker at her youth group, and held a reading of *The Giving Tree* in a K-1 school. The community conversation around mental health has blossomed as a result of Grace’s work, and her companion brochure still circulates. She graduates from Brookfield High School this spring and wants to pursue a degree in graphic design.



Megan Del Giudice
RIDGEFIELD

Megan wanted to encourage sustainability and waste reduction in her community. She worked with the Boys and Girls Club of Ridgefield to create a compost bin for their garden, and she designed after-school programs on the benefits of composting and caring for the environment. The community continues to compost for their own gardens as a result and has already produced a healthy crop of fruits and vegetables. In pursuing her Gold Award, she appreciated the opportunity to follow a big project through to the end. She graduates from Ridgefield High School this year and is considering a college major in marine biology, environmental studies, or law.

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Gabriella Dollahite
MADISON

Gabriella's project, "World of Color: Empowering Young Refugees Through Art," made art classes available to guests at Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services. The courses varied in medium and subject and helped to occupy students' winter break in an inspiring and productive manner. Her lesson plans will ensure the courses run for a long time. She graduates from Daniel Hand High School this spring and hopes to study animation.



Hailey Espinosa
GLASTONBURY

Hailey pioneered a STEM mentoring program which taught young girls at Trinity College Academy about the range of careers available to them. She oversaw the completion of science experiments and the discussion of various scientific theories with real-world application. Trinity holds the booklet of Hailey's class experiments and plans to continue the program. Hailey will graduate from Glastonbury High School this year.



Brett Edmonds
GREENWICH

Teen ignorance of the dangers of negligent driving prompted Brett to organize two assemblies: "Distracted Driving" and "Under the Hood 101." She addressed the necessity of familiarity with a car's structure and maintenance to ensure safe driving practice and presented all her findings at a two-hour fair called "Safe Driving Day," which featured volunteers from car-insurance companies, emergency services, and teen-health nonprofits. Her work will be perpetuated by the Outreach Club at Greenwich High School, where she will graduate this year.



Mikayla Fors
LEDYARD

Mikayla founded and headed the Ledyard Interact Club for its 2017-18 academic year. Since then, with the help of a student co-leader and faculty advisor, she has led three service projects, two local and one global. Her efforts to spread the word and grow in membership spurred the club on to participate in numerous initiatives, including sending care packages of basic supplies to Liberia. She has also instituted a series of recruiting events which will ensure that the club continues on after she graduates from Ledyard High School this year.



Emily Eller
POUND RIDGE, NY/GREENWICH

Emily's project, "Improve Reading with Art and Books," addressed the vast gap between the educational level of diverse children living in her community. She helped to increase literacy and art appreciation by pairing artworks with books to read to the children and having them create their own art projects. She recruited volunteers from local churches and schools to take up the classes after she leaves. She will graduate from Emma Willard School in 2020.



Keira Frame
BROOKFIELD

For her project, Keira repurposed wood to harvest rainwater in order to encourage her community to conserve water. She presented her system before the Garden Club of Brookfield and left them with brochures to enable them to go on educating the community. A supplemental video is in the Brookfield library and on YouTube for nearby and faraway viewers who want continued access to her pointers. She is pursuing a five-year baccalaureate program in architecture at Penn State.

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Rhea Sakinah Grant
MILFORD

In conjunction with Groundwork Bridgeport, Rhea implemented a workshop on the importance of “placemaking” in urban spaces, which engaged local students in actively caring for their city. She wanted young Bridgeport residents to feel more of an appreciation for and connection to the places where they spent their time; she also wanted to show them that previously unattractive or industrial spaces could be made beautiful. Her student collaborators have taken up the project while she has gone on to study environmental justice at Yale.



Erin Hanlon
RIDGEFIELD

Erin noticed the limited availability of STEM courses in Danbury, so she hosted a “Day of STEM” at Danbury’s Park Avenue Elementary School. Fifth-grade students at the school participated in workshops covering topics from circuitry to orthopedics. The National Honor Society at Ridgefield High School, of which Erin is a 2018 alumna, will transform the day into an annual event. Erin now majors in mechanical engineering and minors in biomedical engineering at Villanova. Her goal is to work as a pediatric surgeon.



Mia Gregoire
REDDING

To remedy inadequate caging facilities for box turtles at New Pond Farm Educational Center, Mia worked with visiting children to create and build cages. These cages will provide safety and replace the decrepit 20-year-old cages which had posed a danger to the turtles. Mia also supplied coloring sheets and informational supplements about each amphibian species on the farm. The cages are a permanent fixture at New Pond and the staff will keep them in good condition to give the turtles the highest-possible quality of life. Mia will graduate from Joel Barlow High School this year.



**Catherine Marie de
Fonseca Pinto Herrick**
NEWTOWN

Cate created an “income-generating activities” (IGA) program in Nakaseke, Uganda, instructing parents in new skill sets such as knitting, crocheting, and jewelry-making so that they might expand their incomes and afford an education for their children. The courses she instituted will continue to allow parents to improve their individual (and, by extension, collective) economic circumstances. She aims to become a physician.



Bailey Paige Guillemette
BOZRAH

Bailey’s “Golden Garden” project comprised the construction of raised garden boxes accessible to both able-bodied and residents who use wheelchairs in a local living area. The group gardening fostered a communal spirit and ensured that the residents will keep up the work. Bailey graduated from the Norwich Free Academy last year and now studies criminal justice at the University of Wisconsin; she plans to become a police officer.



Lauren Hone
GREENWICH

To lessen the technology-driven disconnect between young children and nature, Lauren created the outdoor classroom at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center. The classroom features a number of interactive stations where children can develop fine and gross motor skills and have fun with nature. The museum will retain the classroom as a permanent fixture. Lauren hopes to graduate from UConn with degrees in electrical and mechanical engineering and a minor in mathematics.

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Josie Hoover
REDDING

Josie led a workshop in CPR education and certification, drawing on her own experience of having been saved by CPR as a child. With her project, she hoped to arm her community with life-saving practices. She left her students with lists of reminders to post at home and other resources on careers in first aid. Josie will graduate from Joel Barlow High School this spring and major in theatre in college.



Bridget Kager
RIDGEFIELD

Bridget wanted to help local children who found themselves in emergency foster care, so she provided support to the Family & Children's Aid in Danbury. In addition to filling backpacks with toiletries and homemade blankets, she built a bookcase and donated books to Harmony House Women's Shelter nearby. To publicize her work, she created a YouTube video for the Family & Children's Aid and described the project in three leadership talks across Bethel, Brookfield, and Danbury. Countless children will benefit from her efforts. Bridget will graduate from Ridgefield High school this spring.



Elizabeth Jasminski
RIDGEFIELD

Elizabeth addressed the summer slide with her STEM Summer Learning Program. She started a program with elementary-school aged, summer school students in Danbury, tutoring them on math skills and science experiments so the students can maintain the knowledge they learned in the previous school year. Elizabeth created an online learning program equipped with lesson plans, activities, and resources. Her website is available to the public and will be used by the Danbury Learning Center in the future. She hopes to major in a liberal arts field.



Campbell Kinsman
NEW CANAAN

After noticing a need to support children with deployed parents, Campbell started her own charity called BearHug. She wrote a book and prepared "ambassador kits" for her charity supporters to help gather letters. BearHug sends letters to any children living in the United States whose parent is deployed. The national reach will spread words of love and gratitude and help the children feel less alone. The ambassadors she trained will sustain the project. Meanwhile, she will graduate from Ridgefield High School this year.



Hanna Jewell
SOMERS

Because her town did not have its own fire pit to retire American flags respectfully, Hanna installed two drop-boxes where members of the community can part with old or worn flags. She also included a pamphlet of "flag facts" describing retirement ceremonies, which is available at both drop-box locations. Her goal is to establish more drop-boxes in the greater vicinity. She studies biology at Boston College and hopes to go on to optometry school.



Lauren Klym
STAMFORD

Lauren instituted a Westhill School Safety Lockdown Plan complete with classroom checklists, step-by-step procedures, and visual aids which will be implemented by the Stamford Police and the entire Stamford Public School system. Her work with Westhill administration, faculty, and custodial staff has inspired them to sustain the program. She plans to major in business administration and hopes to become CEO of a corporation.

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Sarah Kwashnak
MIDDLEBURY

For a hands-on supplement to biology classes at Memorial Middle School, Sarah cultivated a nature trail near the school, mulching paths, making bridges, and installing plant-identification signs. Memorial's science teachers now have an affordable neighborhood means of augmenting their lessons. The school will continue to maintain and use the trail. Sarah plans to raise awareness of her project through a newspaper article and word of mouth. She graduated from Pomperaug High School last year.



Sofia Lomba
SOUTH WINDSOR

To raise awareness of food origins and preparation, Sofia planted a vegetable garden at a Hartford summer camp and then led a cooking class using the vegetables produced in the garden. She educated the campers on healthy methods of producing, purchasing, preparing, and consuming food, and supplied them with cookbooks and planting guides for future reference. Sofia graduated from the Ethel Walker School last year and now studies animal science at UConn with intentions of becoming a veterinarian.



Brynn Lancey
NORWICH

After losing a family friend, a veteran who had suffered from PTSD, Brynn started the "Awareness for Disabilities" project. She collaborated with the local VFW and a service-dog organization to present talks on the benefits of pairing service dogs with veterans. After these presentations, she gave attendees brochures to spread the word. The partnership Brynn created between the service-dog organization and the VFW will continue to work together and sponsor talks. She graduated from the Marine Science Magnet High School last year.



Abigail Lucier
GREENWICH

To provide support and community for families with premature babies, Abigail organized an event where families could meet and discuss their experiences. She also created a website featuring information on the causes and effects of premature birth, tips for handling stress and some of the other attendant challenges of premature birth, and a space to ask questions. The website remains active, and the Tiny Miracles foundation with which she worked hopes to make the event annual or semiannual. She graduates from Greenwich High School this year.



Emily Linton
VERNON

Emily's "Angels Rest Infant Memorial Garden" ministers to grieving parents who have lost children. The gardens that she created are located at St. Bernard's Church in Rockville, Sacred Heart Church of Vernon, St. Joseph's Church of Rockville, and St. Matthew's Church of Tolland. Emily designed the gardens with benches, statues, and perennial plants, keeping everything low-maintenance for the continued use of the community. She graduates this year and hopes to work as an occupational therapist.



Gia Massoni
NEW FAIRFIELD

Gia founded the Kindness Club for Girls, an after-school program which helps young girls cultivate attitudes of kindness to bring through school and life. Each meeting focused on a theme of kindness, containing exercises to encourage girls to be kind to their communities, peers, families, and most importantly, themselves. The program still exists at Brookfield's St. Joseph Catholic Academy and Ridgefield's St. Mary School, and an academic mentorship program plans to instate the club in several parochial schools. Gia will graduate from Immaculate High School next year and will pursue a degree with a specialization in endocrinology or anesthesiology.

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Michaela McCormick
WEST HARTFORD

Michaela spent the past summer volunteering at West Hartford Health and Rehabilitation Center, hosting a series of spa days for female residents as an exercise in self-esteem. She wanted to empower women of all ages with feelings of renewed beauty and confidence, and to inform them that they have a right to feel comfortable in their own skin. The center will continue the series after Michaela graduates from Hall High School this spring. She plans to major in business in college.



Anna Meurer
GREENWICH

Anna designed and taught an introductory photography course at the local Boys & Girls Club. Her goal was to inspire a widespread interest in photography early in children's lives, as she herself had been introduced to it only recently in high school. She hoped to equip her students with basic darkroom skills and other techniques that would allow them to independently grow their work in the art form. The detailed syllabus she left with the Boys & Girls Club program director will allow the class to become a fixture at the club. Anna will graduate from Greenwich High School this year.



Anastasia Meltzer
SOUTHBURY

To spark children's interest in STEM, Anastasia founded a monthly activity group called "STEM with Anastasia" at her local library. Once a month, she and her students created science and construction projects using common household items. Her goal was to expose children, especially girls, to the possibilities of STEM fields in a way she had never been exposed to them herself. Volunteers from the robotics team at the local public high school will continue the program in Anastasia's stead once she graduates from Our Lady of Mercy Luralton Hall next year.



Jayonna Faith Montigny
ENFIELD

Jayonna and several of her local recruits teamed up with Days for Girls to sew reusable sanitary pads for girls and women in developing countries. These pads are part of kits which certified instructors distribute when they visit these countries to provide education on the menstrual cycle and personal hygiene. Jayonna will graduate from Enfield High School in 2020. She hopes to study anthropology and forensic science and to work for the FBI.



Maeve Merkle-Scotland
MADISON

Maeve established the Outdoor Exploration intramural program for elementary-school students to teach them about and help them engage with nature. She noticed that since advances in technology, many children that age do not spend as much time outside as children of past generations. Maeve created guides and lesson plans that the school plans to keep for future programming. She graduates from Daniel Hand High School this year and would like to study social work and become a therapist.



Laurissa Montigny
ENFIELD

Laurissa patterned and sewed 65 medical dolls and gowns to donate to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center, where doctors will use them as teaching tools for their child patients. Dolls of this type have been proven to assist with emotional development in young patients and thus are in high demand among child life specialists at CCMC. She has connected with local sewing groups which will continue to produce and donate dolls and gowns. Laurissa graduated from Enfield High School in 2018 and now studies chemistry and sign language at Mount Holyoke College, with an eye to earning a Master's degree in exercise science and becoming a field-hockey coach.

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Abigail Morris
RIDGEFIELD

To raise awareness of eating disorders and methods of establishing balanced, healthy eating habits, Abigail worked with the health department at her school to design a two-to-three-day informational course which examines social attitudes toward food and diet culture. She also created a PowerPoint describing the links between body image and disordered eating. Her collaboration with the social-emotional empowerment group Project Resilience even led to a panel event which featured three health specialists and an eating-disorder survivor as panelists. She will graduate from Ridgefield High School this spring.



Juliana Musilli
WILTON

To make healthy meals accessible to food-insecure communities in and around Wilton, Juliana started a YouTube channel called “Recipe for Destiny,” where she took ingredients donated to the local food pantry and demonstrated how to prepare healthy dishes that adults and children will love. The channel is still active, updated, and accessible to pantry users, as is a list of recipes on hand at the pantry. She will graduate from Wilton High School this spring and study business at Ohio State.



Brynna Morris
AVON

Together with the Wildlife Division of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), Brynna raised awareness of the necessity of bats in any ecosystem and the ways to care for bats in Connecticut. She created an interactive, educational kiosk and installed it at Old New-Gate Prison and Coppermine. She also created an educational toolkit filled with photos, echolocation sounds, coloring books, books for all ages, and educational displays. DEEP will continue to sustain the Bat Box and the museum will maintain her educational display for years to come. Brynna graduates from Avon High School in 2021 and hopes to become a scientist or engineer (or both).



Alyse Neville
REDDING

Alyse’s ten-course series, “Power of Arts,” was oriented toward preschoolers to help them better understand and appreciate the art they encountered through drawing, painting, and color design. She has since donated her lesson binders to the preschools where she worked. Alyse graduated from Joel Barlow High School in 2018 and now studies art therapy at Lesley University, after which she aspires to work as an art therapist in a children’s hospital.



Lauren Cleveland Murtagh
SHARON

Lauren’s project, “The Galatians 5:14 Project” encouraged high school students to participate in community service through a social media page where local organizations could post service opportunities. She hoped to inspire teens to volunteer and give back to their community. The page remains active to this day. She graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 2018 and now studies sustainable plant and soil systems at UConn. She then hopes to pursue a Master’s degree in agricultural education.



Lauren Ozimek
MADISON

Lauren filmed and edited a series of videos called “Just Breathe Yoga & Meditation” for mothers with babies in intensive care. Her aim was to create a source of calm for parents in high-pressure situations. Yale-New Haven Hospital now possesses the entire series and actively uses the video she created to promote stress relief. Lauren graduates from Daniel Hand High School this spring and plans to study business in college.

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Elizabeth Peck
GREENWICH

Elizabeth catalogued the graves of all veterans buried in Putnam Cemetery and drafted a spreadsheet with their information. The American Legion has cross-referenced this spreadsheet with the cemetery map to create and post new maps around the gravesites. Her work will enable visitors to find their loved ones and enable the legion to complete its Memorial Day ceremonies more efficiently. She graduates from Greenwich High School this year and plans to study exercise science and kinesiology, with the ultimate goal of pursuing a career in physical therapy.



Sophia Rogers
SALEM

Sophia's project, "Bridging the Generation Gap," engaged teenagers in volunteering their services for older residents in their community. Her aim was to help divided generations better understand and help each other, and to address the importance of acts of kindness. Within her program, sponsored by the Key Club at her school, local students performed such tasks as raking lawns free of charge. Sophia will graduate from East Lyme High School next spring.



Emily Plumb
TRUMBULL

Under Emily's direction, the Lauralton Hall Storytellers Club created audio resources for the visually-impaired in cooperation with the Connecticut Radio Information System (CRIS). Still active to this day, they have recorded readings from newspapers, journals, short stories, and more, all while learning about how to best support the visually-impaired. The club continues in Emily's absence - initially 20 members, now growing steadily - and is soon to begin its own podcast. Emily graduated from Lauralton Hall last year and majors in political science at Oxford College of Emory University.



Victoria Rozario
WEST HARTFORD

The "Spicebush Project" was Victoria's initiative to revitalize a local walking trail. She and 30 volunteers traveled to the Spicebush Swamp and pulled up weeds and cleared brush to create an attractive, walkable space for the town. Westmoor Park, where the trail is located, will now conduct an annual cleanup. Victoria graduates from Hall High School this spring and plans to major in psychology, and political science, or environmental science.



Reese Reiling
BROOKFIELD

Reese's project focused on helping Brookfield-area residents feel better prepared to be first responders when someone needs help. She collected and created first aid kits - 36 full and 60 miniature - and donated them to a local food pantry. She also provided inexpensive CPR certification to children and adults in her community and taught students at her local middle school about emergency medical procedures. She also helped six Girl Scout troops earn their First Aid badge! Reese graduates from Brookfield High School this year and plans to study animal science.



Marianella Salinas
NEWTOWN

Marianella founded "WISE on FYER" (Women in Science and Engineering on Future Young Educated Role-Models), an annual three-month-long STEM outreach program for high-school girls of color. She hoped to break down barriers of gender and background to allow local young women to explore their interests and potential in STEM fields. The Westover School will sustain the program after she graduates in 2020. She hopes to study engineering and then proceed to medical school.

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Athena Savvides
SOUTH WINDSOR

In an effort to provide older residents in town with local and engaging weekend recreation, Athena assembled a resource guide for her town of South Windsor. With the help of a team, she compiled lists of assisted-living homes nearby, activities, local doctors, and more. She will graduate from South Windsor High School this year and go on to study social work at Central Connecticut State University, after which she hopes to become a school social worker.



Kenzie Elizabeth Smith
AMSTON

In a film project called “Rediscovering ‘Herstory,’” Kenzie explored the untold stories of women who had lived in and developed her hometown. She has left the video at the public library for circulation and on the Hebron Historical Society website for viewing. The Historical Society will also present the video at the opening of the Burrows Hill Schoolhouse. Kenzie hopes to study entrepreneurship and accounting in college.



Jenna Schwery
VOLUNTOWN

To protect and identify the homes of local residents in case of emergency, Jenna worked with her town fire department and town selectmen to post a series of reflective signs around town to aid first responders. The signs will be a permanent fixture and a way for firemen and first responders to locate and reach emergency situations more efficiently, thereby potentially save more lives. Jenna currently attends Marine Science Magnet High School.



Eliza Stanley
ARMONK, NY/GREENWICH

Eliza’s project, “Getting Girls Going in STEM,” consisted of writing a children’s book exploring different STEM careers which might be of interest to young girls. She also created an accompanying teacher’s guide complete with post-reading activities for girls to do which they might not have previously considered. Copies of the book and guide have gone out to 500 girls already through local libraries and schools, and Eliza plans to make the book available on Amazon and have a subsequent launch. She will graduate from the Convent of the Sacred Heart.



Emily Sklar
WILTON

After discovering many American families’ financial inability to feed their pets adequately, Emily set up a recurring pet food donation to local pantries, filling a need that over 80 percent of pantries had expressed. All extra donations are given to a nearby animal shelter. A 2018 graduate of the Jewish High School of Connecticut, Emily studies nutrition biology at the University of California Davis with an eye to a career in medicine.



Sabrina Stanley
ARMONK, NY/GREENWICH

Sabrina initiated a meal donation program for migrant workers in the community of Mt. Kisco, New York, hosted at Neighbors Link. Schools, churches, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and families in the area will continue to assist with the project. Sabrina will graduate from the Maplebrook School in 2021 and hopes to continue her work with animals at local shelters in the meantime, improving their adoption rate and quality of life.

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Laurel Stejskal
BETHEL

Laurel launched the “Lending Libraries for Literacy” project to benefit young students who struggle to read—or struggle to enjoy reading—the way she did as a child. She wanted to make a small library accessible to them as a source of interesting books on a range of topics. The goal was to get them reading for fun so they might consider it less of a chore. The Teed Library, built in memory of her fourth-grade reading teacher, is included on the national database LittleFreeLibraries.com. To stock the library, Laurel also held a book drive, to which local community members contributed generously; over 1,500 books continue to circulate. She graduates from Bethel High School this year.



Ashlinn Virgulto
MADISON

Ashlinn organized a three-day event to teach all youth about track and field sports. She hoped it would raise awareness to the fact that these athletic activities are often unavailable to all the children. A wide age range attended, and she recruited volunteer “buddies” to do the activities with them. A group of volunteer leaders will take over the program annually in Ashlinn’s stead. She graduated from Daniel Hand High School last year and studies management at UConn with the intention of working in business.



Christine Thorp
WALLINGFORD

Christine’s project, “Weekend Fun for Seniors,” featured crafts, bingo, and other games at the Regency House Nursing Home. She brought them to the home on several occasions to engage directly with the residents, brightening their day. The home keeps these activities in a box so residents will always have them on hand. Christine graduated from Mark T. Sheehan High School in 2018 and now attends Sacred Heart University, where she has taken a double major in mathematics and interdisciplinary studies. She hopes to become an elementary-school teacher.



Maggie Walsh
ARMONK, NY/GREENWICH

Maggie developed an educational program on combating loneliness in nursing homes. She used the program to instruct younger Girl Scout troops, teen church groups, and other community members in meaningful interaction with the older residents. Her training PowerPoint is available to these and other local groups. Once she has graduated from Byram Hills High School this spring, she hopes to attend the University of Notre Dame and study a science or mathematics-related field.



Erika Turner
ENFIELD

To raise awareness of declining mason bee populations, Erika erected a display at Northwest Park featuring a large bee mansion and an informational sign. She also hosted a workshop at the local nature center to educate children and parents in caring for mason bees. The park will continue to care for the mansion and institute the beekeeping activity in all their summer camps. After graduating from Enfield High School in 2020, Erika would like to study biochemistry and pursue a medical career.



Caroline Webb
GREENWICH

Caroline, alongside a group of volunteers, constructed a barrier in an effort to control a plot of invasive phragmites. She created an accompanying brochure to present to the community for educational purposes. Audubon Greenwich will oversee the barrier until the invasive plants are no longer an issue, and the brochure is posted on the Greenwich Garden Club website. Caroline graduates from Greenwich High School this year and aspires to focus on biology or environmental studies in college.



Maya Welber
NEWTOWN

Maya held an awareness craft hour called “Abilities with Possibilities” at the C. H. Booth Library, after observing how few educational and recreational opportunities the library offered children of all abilities. She intended her craft hour to challenge kids to hone their fine motor skills while creating something. Her craft club, composed mostly of 8-to 13-year-olds, meets in the library once a month under the supervision of Maya and two fellow volunteers. Upon her graduation from Lauralton Hall in 2020, she will select student volunteers from the Best Buddies program to sustain the club.



Madelyn Yu
GREENWICH

As a Catholic CCD teacher, Madelyn found it difficult to engage her first- through fifth-grade students with the texts provided her. Her project, “Growing Deeper in Our Faith,” augmented ten major areas of study within the CCD program, from the Bible to the Sacraments to the Beatitudes. She assembled kits with supplemental materials, hands-on activities, and fun lesson plans that get students out of their seats and more involved in exercising their faith. These kits are available to longer-term CCD teachers. She graduates from Greenwich High School in June.



Kathryn A. Wilkinson
SHELTON

Kathryn built a pollinator garden in her town as a foraging space for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators. She included over 25 types of native perennials to attract pollinators and beautify the community. She held a seminar at the Trumbull Agriscience summer camp and provided children with their own seeds to plant at the garden opening. In addition, her educational display at the Huntington Branch Library taught the public how to start their own pollinator-friendly gardens. Kathryn will graduate from Trumbull High School next year and hopes to earn her EMT certification before going on to study biology or microbiology. Her ultimate goal is to work in dermatology, specifically cosmetics.



Keleigh Zuckert
RIDGEFIELD

Overseen by Keleigh, “VBS Plus” taught elementary and middle-school students about faith, service, and responsibility. The middle-school participants completed local projects like a wheelchair wash and food-pantry donations. Keleigh will distribute binders full of service project materials to churches in the vicinity, hoping the program will grow and help young people become active contributors to their religious and secular communities. She graduates from Immaculate High School this year and hopes to study elementary education.



Kennedy E. Williams
GLASTONBURY

At Glastonbury High School’s freshman open house, Kennedy’s Mental Health Awareness Booth educated her classmates on teenage anxiety and depression. The accompanying resource book detailed signs and symptoms of mental health and effective steps for combating them on an individual and communal level. The school’s Psychology Club will present both the booth and the book annually at the open house. After graduating this year, Kennedy plans to study molecular genetics and become a fertility specialist.

Since 1916, approximately one million Girl Scouts have been making a meaningful, sustainable change in their communities and around the world by earning the Girl Scout Gold Award. This is the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn, and acknowledges the power behind each recipient’s dedication to not only empowering and bettering herself, but also making the world a better place for others. These young women are courageous leaders and visionary changemakers.

Girl Scouts choose an issue, investigate the issue, create a plan, gather a team, take action in their communities, and educate and inspire others to make the world a better place.



Did you know?

- The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest leadership award a Girl Scout can earn. Less than six percent of all Girl Scouts earn the Girl Scout Gold Award.
- A Girl Scout who has earned her Gold Award immediately rises one rank in any of the U.S. military branches.
- A growing number of colleges and universities across the country recognize the achievement of the Gold Award through college admission and scholarships.

The Gold Award Committee is composed of caring and dedicated volunteers. Each committee member mentors girls as they embark on their journey toward the Girl Scout Gold Award, offering advice, support, and guidance along the way. These committee members' efforts ensure the success of our GSOFACT Gold Award Girl Scouts, and their dedication is what makes our Gold Award program possible. Thank you for an excellent year.

Girl Scout Gold Award at a Glance:

Golden Eaglet 1916-1939 | Curved Bar Award 1940-1963 | First Class 1963-1980
Gold Award 1980-present

Girl Scout Mission

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

Nuestra mission

Girl Scouts ayuda a las niñas a desarrollar el coraje, la confianza, y el carácter, para hacer del mundo un lugar mejor.

Girl Scout Promise

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

La Promesa de Girl Scouts

Por mi honor, yo trataré:
De servir a Dios y a mi patria,
ayudar a las personas en todo momento,
y vivir conforme a la Ley de Girl Scouts.

Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and
responsible for what I say and do,
and to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.

La Ley de Girl Scouts

Yo me esforzaré por:
Ser honrada y justa
cordial y servicial,
considerada y compasiva,
valiente y fuerte, y
responsable de lo que digo y hago,
y por
respetarme a mí misma y a los demás
respetar la autoridad
usar los recursos de manera prudente,
hacer del mundo un lugar mejor, y
ser hermana de cada una de las Girl Scouts.