



# Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony



**June 9, 2024**

1pm-4pm

**Marriott Downtown**

200 Columbus Boulevard

Hartford, CT 06103





# Gold Award Girl Scouts Change the World

Gold Award Girl Scouts are change-makers. They have changed the world, changed their lives, and earned the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting.

To earn the Gold Award, Girl Scouts identify issues in their communities, draft plans to address a root causes, and lead volunteers to implement them. When the projects are complete, the Gold Award Girl Scouts and their team have made a sustainable impact on the world that continues to last beyond their involvement.

It's a huge accomplishment that also impacts the Gold Award Girl Scout as a person. How they see the world—and how the world sees them—is forever changed. It's also a credential that will be with them for the rest of their life; having the Girl Scout Gold Award on a high school transcript or resumé can make a Girl Scout stand out when it comes to college admissions, scholarship applications, internships, and job interviews.

# We Are Girl Scouts



Girl Scouts bring their dreams to life as they work together to build a better world. Through programs from coast to coast, Girl Scouts of all backgrounds and abilities can be unapologetically themselves as they discover their strengths and rise to meet new challenges—whether they want to climb to the top of a tree or the top of their class, lace up their boots for a hike or advocate for climate justice, or make their first best friends. Backed by trusted adult volunteers, mentors, and millions of alums, Girl Scouts lead the way as they find their voices and make changes that affect the issues most important to them.



## **Girl Scout Mission**

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

## **Girl Scout Promise**

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

## **Girl Scout Law**

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

\*Members may substitute for the word God in accordance with their own spiritual beliefs.

# Gold Award Ceremony

## Welcome

**Dianne Kaiyoorawongs**  
*Gold Award Girl Scout*  
*Class of 2012*

## Flag Ceremony

**Krissie &  
Girl Scouts Cadettes**

## Remarks & Presentations of Gold Award Certificates, Letters & Proclamations

**Elicia Pegues Spearman**  
*GSOFC CEO*

**Pamela Scagliarini**  
*GSOFC Board Chair*

## Keynote

**Sarah Cody**  
*Anchor & Reporter for*  
*News Channel 8*

## Presentation of Gold Award Scholarships

**Elicia Pegues Spearman**  
*GSOFC CEO*

**Pamela Scagliarini**  
*GSOFC Board Chair*

## Call to Action & Send off

**Dianne Kaiyoorawongs**  
*Gold Award Girl Scout*  
*Class of 2012*

# Gold Award Girl Scouts



**Katherine Abissi**  
*Webb Mountain Bridge*

Katherine supported the environment and made navigating a trail safer by building a bridge over a creek at Webb Mountain Park. In creating the bridge, not only did Katherine help prevent hikers from polluting the creek below the structure, but also made the hike easier to complete, avoiding hiker injury. The Monroe Parks and Recreation Center, volunteers, and Boy Scouts will oversee the condition of the bridge in the coming years.



**Rachel Baron**  
*Redesigning for the Future*

Rachel addressed civic engagement and a sense of togetherness within the community by revamping a nursery room in the town's church. Rachel transformed the outdated space to have a more modern atmosphere, now equipped with new furniture and a mural painted by Rachel herself. The space continues to be used as a nursery room, as well as a meeting space, and will serve the community for years to come.



## Ciara Bell

### *Mom Accolades Program*

Ciara taught single mothers about self confidence, mental health, and sustainable/financially conscious practices through spearheading 7 classes at Malta House, a nonprofit offering support to mothers struggling with low income. Through a class format, Ciara enrolled participants to teach classes, fostered a support community among moms, and taught classes on creating laundry detergent and hand sanitizers as an opportunity to save money. Classes will continue to be taught by mothers at Malta House and the House Manager will oversee future meetings.



## Naomi Boord

### *Mission Upcycle*

Naomi created 'Mission Upcycle,' an initiative that addresses global warming through a number of mediums. Naomi partnered with Save The Sound to host a community clean-up day, created an informative Facebook page for Mission Upcycle (listing resources, upcoming events, clean-up dates), and dispersed 'Mission Upcycle Better Bins' on local trails in order to prevent littering. The Mission Upcycle Facebook page is actively used by community members and fellow Girl Scouts will oversee the Upcycle Bins.





## **Lexi Borecki**

### *Easier Nutrition*

Lexi alleviated malnutrition in the homeless community in partnership with Purple Pantry Boxes. Lexi created and left meal/nutrition cards in the organization's pantry locations, explaining how to use available ingredients to create healthy meals. Lexi left her meal cards online to be copied and printed for further use, acting as a template for the foods available in the pantry at a given time period.



## **Julia Brennan**

### *Stations of the Cross at St. Rose of Lima*

Julia worked to heighten the physical, mental, and spiritual wellness of patrons attending St. Rose of Lima Church by installing an outdoor 'Stations of the Cross' on the property. Julia created a series of 14 images depicting the last hours in Jesus' life, allowing worshippers to pray at each station in accordance with the teachings and themes. Church members continue to use the location to pray, whether it be by themselves or with a group.



## **Mathilda Burke**

### *History Happened Here*

Mathilda educated members within the community about military heroes from the Revolutionary War. After extensive amounts of research, Mathilda created a website home to a database of 600 patriots, a forum, and thorough historical information on local heroes from the Revolutionary War. Mathilda also made a supplemental curriculum booklet that was presented to 5th & 6th graders. Mathilda's website is open to the public and the curriculum created will be used in schools.



## **Morgan Burlison**

### *Your Voice Matters*

Morgan helped individuals recover from abusive relationships by launching a campaign for journaling and the positive effects it can have on mental health.

Morgan created 50 'ready to write' journaling bundles to give to participants, complete with a colorful journal, pen, and an infographic bookmark listing the impacts of journaling. Those who now journal regularly will pass on the practice to others and Morgan's infographics continue to be used as a resource.



## **Maya Cotter**

### ***A Guide to Sustainable Theater***

Maya created a resource outlining how to put on a budget-friendly theater productions as support for local theater programs with small budgets. Due to a lack of knowledge of free resources, many productions never made it to the stage. Maya's packet outlined each component of running a show, complete with tips on how to make the process budget friendly. The packet was shared with over 2,000 schools and community centers and will be used and referenced in future productions.



## **Alexia DiFranco**

### ***Interactive Healthy Eating Board***

Alexia supported the education of healthy eating habits in children and young adults by creating an interactive learning experience at Oxen Hill Farms. Alexia fashioned activity books and boards that listed fun facts, games, jokes, and pictures to help youth better understand healthy habits. Farm employees continue to hand out the books when Alexia isn't present.



## **Lilyana Drapeau**

### *Butterflies for a Better Tomorrow*

Lilyana addressed lack of interest in STEAM activities within low-income and minority youth by planting a Monarch Butterfly Garden at a pre-school in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Students now have a fun and interactive way to learn about life cycles, pollination relationships, and biodiversity. The garden will continue to thrive past Lilyana's involvement, the area is full of lower maintenance plants and will flourish in the coming years.



## **Ryan Fabrizio**

### *Gratitude Gardens*

Ryan set out to ensure Connecticut food pantries have healthy food options for children in local communities throughout the state. Ryan was able to get small businesses to donate produce to food pantries, some of which are now doing so on a consistent basis. After partnering with the nonprofit IMPACTrumbull, Ryan has ensured that the organization has everything they need (contacts, flyers, etc.) to carry out the program in the coming years.



## **Laurel Feindel**

### ***Gardener Tool Bin with Food Bank Information***

Laurel built a tool bin for gardeners at Ellington's community garden in order to address food insecurity. After assembling a small team to create the bin/garden space, Laurel spread awareness by speaking at local farmer's markets, posting flyers, and getting information out about the bin within her town's newsletter. The trails committee and Ellington Girl Scouts will upkeep the garden past Laurel's involvement.



## **Gracie Garcia**

### ***Malta House Health and Wellness Room***

Gracie opened up a Health and Wellness space for free and accessible healthcare in partnership with Malta House, an organization focused on housing pregnant women and women with newborns. The space provides access to first aid and basic health care needs, putting women in touch with volunteer doctors with whom they can build patient/doctor relationships. Volunteer doctors will manage the space moving forward.



## Ada Gauthier

### *MSMHS's First Wellness Week*

Ada focused on addressing the 5 wellness imbalances (physical, school-based, social, nutritional, mental wellness) among teens through a variety of activities and methods. Ada reached 271 students in her school by creating a “Wellness Week” in which she addressed and discussed each imbalance on a given day. After looking at data from a survey given out to students, Ada concluded that discussing these topics was beneficial to the student’s well being. School clubs will continue to hold wellness week past Ada’s involvement.



## Cora Guerin

### *Resource Website for Neurodivergent Teens & Young Adults*

Cora created a website that lists resources for disabled and mentally ill individuals, owned and run by people who are disabled themselves. Cora wanted to address the stigmatization of those with mental health issues and disabilities, the website not only becoming a well of information but also a means to uplift individuals. The published website is open to the public and will be sustained by its membership.



## Ashley Guerrera

### *Browsing Books*

Ashley made the process of finding a book easier and less daunting for young students. Ashley created binders (in physical & pdf forms) for the school's library. Binders were organized by genre and list the books available within each category. PDFs of the binders are available online. Students and librarians can add new releases into the physical copies when appropriate.



## Clarissa Halpryn

### *Writing Center*

Clarissa created a physical Writing Center where students could get one-on-one help from peers (ultimately providing a less stressful environment for critiques), and a designated zone to focus on college applications with support. After seeing its success in impacting students' writing, the Writing Center will continue to operate in the years ahead, ran by students learning how to be effective tutors for their peers.



### **Jillian Hoag** *Safety Concerning Equines on Trails and Roads*

Jillian ensured the safety of both drivers and horseback riders in Newtown by educating the community on the multi-use roads/trails. Through signs on local trails, social media posts, and interactive booths at a community event, Jillian was able to educate the public on shared paths. After a large turnout at Jillian's booth and the installment of signs on paths/roads, community members will have the information readily accessible to themselves in the coming years.



### **Mihika Joshi** *Empowering Dreams*

Mihika taught 100 young girls (students ages 10-15) about STEAM career options, giving them role models to look up to. With a running website and presentation, Mihika was able to get young girls excited about pursuing STEAM initiatives while uplifting the accomplishments of successful women within the industry. After providing the South Windsor Teen Center with a tool kit for success, the team will take the project forward beyond Mihika's involvement.





## **Makena Logan**

### *Creating a Nature/History Trail*

Makena helped community members spend more time outdoors and appreciate nature by creating a trail to an Avon Land Trust property. Complete with signage on wildlife, plants, and an educational area equipped with various resources (bat box, owl box, pollinator garden), the trail provides hikers with engaging ways to learn not only about the habitat but also about environmentally conscious practices. The Avon Land Trust and volunteers have agreed to upkeep the project moving forward.



## **Dylan Mayo**

### *Pollinating the Community*

Dylan addressed the declining bee population by planting a garden lush with flowers alongside creating 4 bee homes. Dylan created a website to educate local residents of Woodstock on making their own pollinator gardens, making sure to plant perennials (plants that will bloom every year). The Woodstock Recreation Department has agreed to water the garden every summer to continue Dylan's initiative to save the bees.



## Jordan Ng

### *Our Healing Whispers*

Jordan made a safe space for those who are struggling with their mental health by creating accounts on TikTok and Instagram under the name 'Healing Whispers.' Individuals anonymously submit pieces of writing (quotes, poems, lyrics) that cover topics varying from depression, anxiety, and grief, with the goal to help followers feel less alone and have a better understanding of people's experiences. Volunteers (licensed therapists and psychologists) will oversee the accounts moving forward.



## Isabelle Ojeh

### *Generals and Putnam Cottage: Bringing awareness to exciting history*

Isabelle worked to preserve the history of the American Revolution by redesigning a room within the Putnam Cottage Museum in Greenwich. Isabelle enhanced the room's features, creating displays of generals and weapons to give a more engaging and accurate depiction of the cottage's history. The organization who oversees the museum has agreed to upkeep the updates Isabelle has made.



## **Sophia Ojeh** *Putnam Cottage Self-Guided Electronic Tours*

Sophia made the experience at Putnam Cottage Museum more engaging for children and teens. The tour experience is not only easier to navigate, but also helps preserve the cottage's history by increasing its digital presence. Sophia created a 'virtual' tour with sections of the museums equipped with QR codes, describing the history behind particular components of the museum. These descriptions are also available in hard copies for participants/attendees. These additions will continue to be used in future tours.



## **Katelyn Pierce** *Volunteer Presentation*

Katelyn aimed to increase student participation in volunteer opportunities. After identifying the root cause, Katelyn researched and participated in local, national, and international volunteer opportunities. After completing the research, Katelyn created a Google Slides presentation detailing each volunteer option and integrated it in the town's high school website for easy access. The offerings were presented to high school freshmen and juniors. Underclassmen will oversee and update the presentations in the future.



## Leah Potter

### *Equestrian Rider Safety Protocols*

Leah worked to ensure the safety of horseback riders by educating instructors and barn owners on best practices when encountered with a riding accident. After helping to inform owners/instructors of basic first aid and protocol to follow after an accident, Leah created and posted informational posters (displaying safety / first aid practices) throughout the town's local barn. These posters will remain up and the owner will simulate the training Leah created when onboarding new employees.



## Anamitra Rawat

### *speakSTEM Learning*

Anamitra addressed gender disparities in STEM fields by getting youth to participate and learn about STEM careers/practices. Anamitra ran a one week hybrid summer camp and an online four week immersive camp, both of which covered a variety of topics, such as the basics of coding and discussions about women in STEM. Anamitra also held interactive booths and presented the project to the town council. Girl Scouts and members of the South Windsor public library have agreed to keep up Anamitra's work.



## Anne Taylor

### *How Does YOUR Garden Grow?*

Anne taught young students at Montessori School about butterflies and their importance to the environment by creating a butterfly garden. In addition to creating the Garden, Anne helped teachers implement lessons on butterflies in their curriculum. Students learned about the butterfly life cycle, gardening practices, and how to be more environmentally conscious. Teachers will work alongside students to upkeep the butterfly garden and the course is officially a part of the students' curriculum.



## Jordana Treisman

### *Indoor Plant Initiative*

Jordana improved the mental health of students and teachers within the town's school by adding plants to ten classroom spaces. The presence and maintenance of plants has been found to increase people's moods and positively impact their mental health. Assigning students and teachers to maintain plants in the classroom added a sense of responsibility, made the rooms more vibrant, and was a reminder of nature. Teachers and students alike are enthusiastic about maintaining the plants in the coming years.



## **Penelope Werner**

*Open Door Shelter  
Community Garden*

Penelope addressed one of the struggles that come with homelessness by creating 5 garden boxes for fresh produce at the Open Door Shelter in Norwalk. Penelope ensured that the boxes were fruitful and that they were accompanied by infographics with nutritional and garden care information to support their future harvests. Residents of Open Door and volunteers of the shelter agreed to maintain the gardens moving forward.



## **Lillian Westerberg**

*Educating of Inland Behaviors on  
Long Island Sound Ecosystems*

Lillian addressed Long Island Sound pollution by creating a program educating the public on their impact to the environment. Lillian presented the program at her town library, over Zoom, and at school, asking attendees to incorporate five environmentally conscious practices from the presentation into their lives. Through Lillian's initial spread of information and enlisting a teacher from Rockville High School confirming to use the presentation in the curriculum, Lillian's hard work will continue.



## Alice Xu

### *Keep in Mind*

Alice addressed how certain media consumption can affect body image and encourage disordered eating by creating a website with a variety of resources on the topic. Alice distributed 200 pamphlets equipped with a QR code that led to the website, home to helpful information, such as summaries of academic journal articles or interviews on the topic. Pamphlets will continue to be distributed throughout public spaces and health teachers from Alice's school agreed to discuss the project when going over disordered eating with students.



340 Washington Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

[gsofct.org](http://gsofct.org)  
(800) 922-2770