



2025 Honor Celebration

May 18, 2025

“Scouting rises within you and inspires you to put forth your best”.
Juliette Gordon Low

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.



Welcome to the 2025 Honor Celebration

Welcome to the 2025 Honor Celebration. Girl Scouts have been making a difference in their communities and beyond for more than 100 years. We're excited to honor the exceptional achievements of girls who continue the legacy of service and excellence in Girl Scouting. This year's honorees embody outstanding leadership, personal development, and commitment. They've devoted many hours toward their projects and each girl is dedicated to the values of courage, confidence and character to make the world a better place.

Today we're honoring 13 girls with the coveted Gold Award—the highest award a Senior or Ambassador Girl Scout can earn. We're also honoring Silver Award recipients, and presenting the Tammie Murray Spirit Award and Jennifer Barnum Spirit Awards, and GSSEM's Young Woman of Distinction.

2025 Honors Awards Program

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Damiana Sorrell, GSSEM Chief Program Officer
and Lizzie Cook, 2024 Young Woman of Distinction

View photos from the
2025 Honor Celebration at
www.gssem.org/honors2025

OPENING FLAG CEREMONY

REMARKS

Karen Ebben, GSSEM Board Chair
Monica Woodson, GSSEM CEO



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Cyekeia Lee Detroit College Access Network,
Executive Director

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Tammie Murray Spirit Award
Jennifer Barnum Spirit Award
Presentation of Silver Award
CSW 69 Delegation
Presentation of Gold Award
GSSEM Young Woman of Distinction

SOCIAL HOUR WITH STROLLING APPETIZERS

The Tammie Murray and Jennifer Barnum Spirit Awards

The Tammie Murray and Jennifer Barnum Spirit Awards are presented in memory of two exceptional Girl Scouts who led by example and were committed to the values that embody the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Recipients of these awards demonstrate the courage, confidence and character of a Girl Scout, not only during Girl Scout activities, but in her day-to-day life.

The recipient of the Tammie Murray Spirit Award is a Girl Scout who has given outstanding service to others and to the community. She must be a role model and mentor to younger girls and personify the Girl Scout law. The Jennifer Barnum Spirit Award is given to an outstanding Girl Scout, who exemplifies the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism and personality.

2025 Tammie Murray Spirit Award recipient:

Samantha Sulak

2025 Jennifer Barnum Spirit Award recipient:

Lauren Hatto



33rd Anniversary of the Spirit Awards

The Tammie Murray and Jennifer Barnum Spirit Awards honors the memory of Tammie Murray and Jennifer Barnum, two Girl Scouts killed in a bus accident in 1991 while attending a Girl Scout tour of California. In 1992, Michigan Metro Girl Scout Council created the Spirit Awards in their honor.

Tammie Murray Spirit Award recognizes girls who personify the Girl Scout Law in everything they do. Each awardee has demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to others, her community, and has served as a role model and mentor to younger girls. Jennifer Barnum Spirit Award recognizes the Girl Scout spirit, not only during Girl Scout events but in their day-to-day activities. Girls demonstrate the highest ideal of character, conduct, patriotism, and personality in interactions with others.

The following Girl Scouts have earned the Tammie Murray and Jennifer Barnum Spirit awards during the last 33 years.

TAMMIE MURRAY

Cabresha Graves
Dierra Surles
Ava Bunao
Amanda Young
Rachael Mulvaine
Allison Bailey
Haley Whitmore
Nya Mays
Erica Geml
Heather Gregory
Grace Elyse Pelzer
Addison Mauck
Maria Wardell
Chelsey Timlin
Kaitlyn Bimberg
Rachel Karyakose
Shannon Hogg
Meghan Orr
Jasmine Dandridge
Megan Tierney
Meghan Malinowski
Corey Gentry
Sheree Campbell
Leatrice Thompson
Erin Muldowney
Elizabeth Ferraro
Kandi Williams
Danielle Swan
Rebecca Conley
Chimere Rashida Love
Halana Lipscomb
Secily Dickinson

JENNIFER BARNUM

Angelique Bantom
Maggie Dunn
Mariah Donalson
Emily Davis
Carissa Nelson
Linda Weng
Anten'nae Burns
DeShonda Johnson
Barbara Sammut
Chloe Peter
Emma Chandonais
Kandis Johnson
Kayla Wimbush
Andrea Jehl
Margaret Antushevich
Brittany Morrell
Kaitlin Zies
Ashley Webb
Annette DiCello
Emily Young
Jennifer Friday
Jennifer Grima
Laura Marshall
Danielle Scott
Frances Banka
Jennifer Hunt
Anna Larson
Nacori Joyce
Andrea Kay Dotson
Dawn Elizabeth Marshall
Jana Lynn Damphousse
Kerry Stapleton

The Gold Award is the highest honor Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts can earn.

Since 1916, Girl Scouts' highest award has stood for excellence and leadership for girls everywhere. Seniors and Ambassadors who choose to pursue the Gold Award dedicate themselves to developing and implementing a project, which displays the leadership skills they have developed through Girl Scouting. The Gold Award project is the culmination of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience in which girls discover, connect and take action to positively impact their communities, as well as their own lives.

The requirements for the Girl Scout Gold Award start with completing two Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador Journeys or having earned the Girl Scout Silver Award and completing one Senior or Ambassador Journey. Each Journey completed gives girls the skills needed to plan and implement a Take Action project to create sustainable change in their community.

After fulfilling the Journey(s) requirement, girls are ready to begin their project. They must complete the following steps: identify an issue, investigate it thoroughly, build a team, create and present a plan, gather feedback, take action, and educate and inspire others. Girls dedicate a minimum of 80 hours to completing their projects.

The GSSEM Young Woman of Distinction Award

is a special honor bestowed upon a Girl Scout Gold Award recipient whose final project demonstrates extraordinary leadership and addresses a global issue with measurable and sustainable impact. The honoree will serve as an ambassador to the council for one year. Charged with building girl relationships, advocacy and public speaking, the Young Woman of Distinction will support, participate and invest in the Girl Scout leadership experience. The recipient will also receive a special scholarship contributed by the Nancy L. Philippart and Thomas F. McGrail Fund.

The GSSEM Precious Medal Award

recognizes a Girl Scout Gold Award recipient who has achieved all three of the Highest Awards a Girl Scout can earn: the Bronze, Silver and Gold. This award highlights the culmination of many years of taking action to make our community and world a better place. This award is provided through the generous donation of Dave and Jan Robertjohn.



Indicates Girl Scout has earned all Highest Awards.

Seeing the Invisible



Abigail Taylor

Abigail Taylor believes what you see is not always the full picture, which is why she developed her Gold Award project around invisible disabilities.

“Not all disabled individuals are wheelchair bound, have a prosthetic or have a service animal, many have hidden impairments,” she said. “It’s pretty hard to know if they are disabled.” Some examples of invisible disabilities include autism, heart conditions, IBS, allergies, and diabetes.

Abigail and her team built a sensory bench for the For-Mar’s Exploration Garden Space. A QR code located near the bench goes to a website she developed with more information about invisible disabilities.

Her lack of public speaking experience didn’t stop her from giving an interactive presentation on invisible disabilities.

“Everyone really took in the information and participated a lot. I genuinely felt like the message was heard and considered thoroughly,” she said.

Abigail was a member of Troop 13303 out of Grand Blanc.

Saving Student Athletes



Alessa Atallah

Alessa Atallah used her medical interest to create a High Awards project to bring awareness and attention to the number one cause of death for high school student athletes—cardiac complications.

“There is a major issue involving undiagnosed cardiac issues in high school students,” Alessa said. “Students who engaged in athletic programs and had unknown cardiac issues were at a high risk for sudden cardiac arrest.”

Realizing that prevention is the key, Alessa’s main objective was to educate students and adults about the importance of knowing the warning signs of heart conditions and advocating for EKG screening.

She used her communication skills to speak at a parent sports night and with physician offices to broaden her messaging.

Alessa graduated from Notre Dame Preparatory School. She was a member of Troop 70738.

On the Spot: Community First-Aid Awareness for Outdoor Recreation



Ava Bunao

Access to first aid resources in local outdoor recreation areas, and the knowledge on how to use them, was the foundation for Ava Bunao's Gold Award project.

Ava worked with a team to develop and distribute first-aid kits, including QR codes to her website for quick-access to basic first-aid explanations.

"I wanted to create community accessibility to basic first-aid resources and knowledge pertaining to injuries and situations in public outdoor recreation areas," she explained.

Ava held presentations at local elementary, middle, and high schools, presenting the rationale behind having first-aid kits easily available. Participants then helped Ava make "boo-boo" kits, destined for parks and outdoor sports areas.

"Now, visitors at outdoor areas will be better equipped to deal with minor first-aid situations by having more supplies and reliable resources on hand," she said.

Ava is a graduate of Troy Athens High School. She was a Juliette Girl Scout.

Brandon Township Public Library Seed Library



Daphne Palmer

Daphne hopes her Gold Award project will be bountiful for her community for years to come. She built a seed library with the help of volunteers. More than 700 fruits, vegetables, flowers, and herb seed packets were labeled and sorted.

"The seed library only contains seeds that successfully grow in this area," Daphne said.

Anyone can check out some seed packets from the Brandon Public Library. The only request is to restock the packets with new, dry seeds before returning to the library.

New and seasoned farmers will benefit from Daphne's education pamphlets on seed saving, how to effectively grow and harvest plants, and deer prevention tactics.

Daphne graduated from Oxford High School. She was a member of Troop 70945.

Pumping Pups! Increasing Canine Blood Donations



Emma Beach

A dog lover all her life, Emma Beach was astonished to discover that there is a critical national shortage of canine blood donations.

She decided to create an online database of canine blood banks across the country. Her PumpingPups.org website provides a list of 40 canine blood donation centers in communities across 27 states in the United States.

Emma's goal was to educate dog owners about the need and opportunity to donate blood.

She passed out educational cards to veterinary clinics, dog parks, pet stores, and on social media platforms. She connected with the American Red Cross, cross promoting canine blood donations to potential dog owners donating blood.

Emma also created a nationwide canine blood product inventory system so canine blood banks didn't have to cold call across the country if in need of additional canine blood products.

Emma graduated from Rochester Adams High School. She was in Troop 70738.

Pollinator Hotel



Eva Jackson

Eva's Gold Award project involved constructing and installing a "pollinator hotel" at a local nature center to offset the decline of fifteen endangered species of pollinating insects in Michigan.

The Pollinator Hotel opened for business at For-Mar Nature Preserve in the fall of 2024, providing a safe habitat for long-term, seasonal hibernators. Eva and her team stocked it with sticks, bark, and tree limbs beneficial to buggy guests.

"It's a pollinator habitat, demonstration gardens and a living classroom, to help the community learn about urban ecology," she explained. The goal is to educate people on the importance of bees and other insects.

"Building a bug hotel is a project anyone can do in their own backyard, and I want people to embrace this idea and spread it throughout the world," Eva said.

Eva is a graduate of Carman-Ainsworth High School and was a member of Troop 13303.

Bringing Music to the Community



Hailee Milmine

In elementary school, music class played an influential role in Hailee Milmine's life. When she learned the younger students in her district only received 30 minutes of music a week, she knew she had to act.

Hailee decided her Gold Award project would be installing an all access musical playscape at an area Waterford park.

With budgets for music and arts programs at schools being reduced all the time, this could be the first time they see an instrument in person or the first time they can play with one, Hailee said.

"By installing an outdoor musical instrument at a popular local park, children of all ages have access to an instrument and some form of "music education" whenever they want," Hailee said. "They can spend as much time playing with it as they want."

Hailee graduated from Waterford Kettering High School and was a member of Troop 70886.

Robotics Outreach for Girls



Jessica Leicht

For her Gold Award project, Jessica encouraged young women to tap into their inner engineer and explore the opportunities that robotics offers.

After five years on various school robotic teams, Jessica knows her way around the circuit board. She put her skills to good use as she became mentor and leader of not one, but two, FIRST robotics teams at the middle school.

The Robo Toasters Orange and Blue teams built three robots and participated in 11 competitions, including state finals, earning several awards.

"It was an honor to navigate and be a part of these girls' journey as they learn the technical skills to build a robot, compete, present and problem solve throughout this year's competition," Jessica said. "Knowing these girls had a positive experience in STEM and may expand their interest and future careers makes me proud."

Jessica graduated from International Academy West and was part of Troop 70934.

Lakewood Elementary Sensory Path for Autism Programs



Kayli Nieset

When Kayli Nieset was researching how to earn her Gold Award, she decided to focus on something very personal—helping children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) at the local elementary school.

Kayli knows how challenging ASD can be, as she deals with it herself. Which is why she created a colorful sensory path outside of the autism classrooms for the autistic kids at the school and in the community to use.

“Sensory paths engage multiple senses to help develop motor skills and also improve their physical health,” she said.

Besides encouraging physical activity to reduce stress and anxiety, Kayli incorporated positive affirmations to promote positive self-esteem and mental health.

The teachers at the elementary school were very thrilled upon installation of the project and told Kayli that the ASD kids really enjoy it and use it every school day. They also stated that non-neurodivergent kids at school use it, too.

Kayli is a graduate of Lakeland High School and was a member of Troop 71057.

Stand up speak up report



Madalynne Honeycutt

Knowledge is a good form of defense when it comes to sexual harassment in high schools and Madalynne Honeycutt made it her Gold Award mission to educate as many people as possible about it.

Sexual harassment is prevalent in schools and she knows how prevalent sexual harassment in school can be and incidents of harassment can have long term negative effects on well-being, self-esteem, academic success, and over all mental health.

Madalynne decided to take a stand and developed an in-depth presentation for middle and high school students.

“I created a program to educate students, teachers, and parents about the different forms of harassment, how to recognize it, and ways to effectively respond,” Madalynne said. “I covered the different forms of sexual harassment, including verbal, non-verbal, and physical and provided resources where students can seek help and support,” she said.

Madalynne is a graduate of Chippewa Valley High School and was a Juliette Girl Scout.

Home Improvement - Foster Care



Malana Mentier

For many young adults in foster care, turning 18 can be a scary experience as they age out of the system and are expected to live independently.

Malana wanted her Gold Award project to help foster care teenagers enjoy a smoother transition out of foster care by providing some tips and directions on basic adulting.

She created a series of videos focusing on certain life skills including personal hygiene, healthy relationships, cleaning up around the house, fueling vs. filling meals, planning for the grocery store, preparing food, and laundry 101. She worked closely with Children's Center of Wayne County when deciding on video topics. The center will use the videos and recommend them to other agencies.

"I developed this series to give adolescents the opportunity to gain experience critical life skills required for success," she said. For example, in her cooking video, Malana went grocery shopping with a \$50 budget and a recipe for a healthy meal.

Malana was a member of Troop 70738 and graduated from Rochester Adams High School.

Literacy: Libraries, Access, and the Community



Sonja Dunlap

Sonja Dunlap sees libraries a bit differently than most students. To her, access to libraries, and the tie-ins including freedom of information, freedom of speech, and freedom to read are fundamental human rights.

"Literacy is one of the biggest barriers to improving one's quality of life because reading and writing are necessary skills," Sonja said.

To ensure more people had access to library services, she coordinated a library registration drive, delivered passionate speech to state representatives on MI Library Advocacy Day, and spoke to hundreds of students encouraging them to utilize their community library resources.

Sonja didn't just work within her local community of Gibraltar, she reached out to multiple mentors, state legislatures, booksellers, partners, and others across southeastern Michigan to spread the word about libraries.

She also spoke about the importance of literacy at the UN during the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Sonja graduated from Oscar A. Carlson High School and was a Juliette Girl Scout.

Baskets for Beaches



Uma Ludwig

Seeing debris and litter on her favorite local beaches, Uma Ludwig was inspired to make her Gold Award about pollution and its effects on waterways.

“Pollution is a transboundary issue,” she said. “With one body of water dumping into another, pollution can travel long distances and impact many different areas.”

After contacting three local recreation areas and state parks with beaches, Uma proposed a multi-pronged approach to educating park goers about their responsibilities when it comes to picking up their trash.

Along with a website, printed materials and Earth Day classroom packets, Uma and her team installed bright blue poles with educational signage and blue baskets at local parks.

People are encouraged to take a basket with them and fill it up with garbage during their beach visit. “The posts are right there when entering the beach and will draw your attention and remind you not to pollute,” she said.

Uma graduated from Center Line High School and was a Juliette Girl Scout.

The Silver Award is the highest award a Cadette Girl Scout can earn.

The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest award a Cadette can earn. The award represents a girl's accomplishments in Girl Scouting and in her community as she grows and works to improve her life and the lives of others.



To earn the Silver Award, girls must first complete one Cadette Girl Scout Journey. Next, girls identify an issue or concern in their community and work to research, develop and execute a project around an issue that will benefit their community. Girls can work in a small team of three to four, or they can work solo.

The Silver Award project is designed to help others in the community. The requirements of the Girl Scout Silver Award help girls build skills, explore careers, gain leadership skills and make a commitment to self-improvement.

Adah Chwasz
76346

Lyla Ranger
76314

Isabella Sivuchin
76800

Alexis Morrison
71806

Makenna Darling
76314

Isobel Giroux
76130

Avery Van De Steene
76346

Olyvia Taylor
70781

Julianna Hosey
72264

Genevieve Bunker
76346

Sara Sherry
76411

Lilly Brinn
71519

McKayla Elliott
76346

Savannah Newman
75274

Lorelai Lang
76345

Olivia Weaver
76346

Sofia Maeder
76411

Lucy West
76345

Sadie Trevaskis
76346

Anijah Kenyatta
71587

Mckenzie Belkiewicz
71806

Sloane Tillander
76346

Arielle Jackson
72264

Samantha McCall
75274

Anna Willis
76130

Avery Holdsworth
77086

Sienna Belkiewicz
71806

Audrey Gentner
76800

Ayla DeLuca
75707

Syaira Wyrabkiewicz
70781

Gwendolyn Land
76346

Carmela Sam
76130

Tiffani Bertrand
75707

Hannah Taylor
13303

Claire Berardi
76800

Joslyn Hall
76345

Evelin Budd
76800

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