Gold Award Girl Scout

Eliza Albenze
Bethel Park High School

Operation Give Back

For her Gold Award, Eliza educated the citizens of Bethel Park and neighboring communities on the importance of recycling and donating. She distributed magnets and materials with new recycling policies, gave a series of presentations on recycling and composed pamphlets identifying donation organizations and items that can be donated, which are now being distributed to clients at Berkshire Hathaway Realty and Howard Hannah Realty.

Congratulations!

girl scouts
western pennsylvania
Gold Award Girl Scout

Lindsay Arnone
Fox Chapel Area High School

Impedimenta: Ending the Stigma of Mental Health

Lindsay’s Gold Award project “Impedimenta” was created to address the topic of mental health and mental illness and to teach teenagers how to cope with their stress and anxiety through lesson plans and a self-care kit. Those who attended the seminar learned about the importance of mental health in teenagers and to be an ally to those who may be struggling. The day ended by decorating their own personal self-care kit.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Ann Beatty
Indiana Senior Area School District

School Bus Safety

Ann is a graduate from Indiana Area School District. Her Gold Award project focused on teaching children and families about school bus safety. Having been in a school bus accident herself, she gave presentations to teach children what to do in some school bus accident situations, such as how to utilize the emergency exits.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Hannah Bergman
Norwin High School

Programming Club

Hannah’s Gold Award project was to start a programming club at her high school to inspire other students, especially girls, to learn more about computer science and to write code. During the club, students learned programming languages, as well as how to work on larger coding projects alongside other students to learn how to effectively communicate ideas. Club members also visited area businesses to talk to professional programmers and explore future employment opportunities.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Hanna Bernett
Hampton High School

Senior Citizen Tech Talk

For her Gold Award project, Hanna focused on the senior citizen community. She noticed that there was a general deficit of knowledge with senior citizens regarding the usage of technology, and she set out to fill that void. With a team of volunteers, Hanna organized a “Tech Talk” for senior citizens, during which she addressed frequently asked questions concerning iPhones, tablets, and more.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Emily Betler
North Allegheny Senior High School

Beehive Installation & Education Program

Emily’s Gold Award project was a beehive installation and educational program. Emily and her peers cleared an overgrown area near Latodami Nature Center at North Park and placed a beehive there. An educational day was held for the community, during which Emily’s educational hive box was used, and it will continue to be used in future programs around North Park.

Congratulations!

Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania
Gold Award Girl Scout

Isabella Boleng
Fox Chapel High School

The Rachel Carson Homestead Badge and Curriculum

For Isabella’s Gold Award, she created a patch curriculum for the Rachel Carson Homestead. This patch teaches all Rachel Carson Homestead visitors about Rachel Carson and what she stood for, and it addresses the importance of being environmentally friendly, while cultivating a sense of wonder.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Jennifer Booker
North Allegheny High School

Animation Software Programming Class

Jennifer taught an animation software programming class to middle school students for her Gold Award project. Her hope was to introduce students to the world of animation programming and spark their interest in possible careers in the technology field. She developed a lesson plan, taught biweekly classes over a four-month period, and created documentation that was used for class labs and continues to be available for students to reference.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Madison Borkovich
Fox Chapel High School

Cross Country Literacy Initiative

For Madison’s Gold Award project, she developed a cross-cultural literacy initiative, which incorporated students from all walks of life. She led her peers in writing a series of short stories in English, translating them into Spanish, and designing all aspects of ten mini-books that the team ultimately created. The books were then distributed to local schools, community centers, and libraries, as well as delivered to underprivileged children in Uruguay, a country in South America.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Tori Campbell
Keystone Oaks High School

Tori’s Pittsburgh Glass Center Field Trip

Tori wanted to address the recent restructuring in art education at her school. In an effort to enhance the curriculum, Tori coordinated funding for a field trip to the Pittsburgh Glass Center through her community’s Historic Glass Club, and she worked with school administrators to tackle logistics like transportation and permission slips. The field trip was a success, and her classmates were able to experience a new way to express creativity.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Maria Ciao
North Hills Senior High School

Sensory Friendly Playground in North Park, Allegheny County

For her Gold Award project, Maria worked with local government and the Autism Society of Pittsburgh to make an existing playground more sensory friendly for children with autism and other disabilities. Maria succeeded in creating substantial improvements at the site by raising the necessary funds, installing new sensory friendly play panels, replacing benches and garbage cans, and adding plants around the perimeter of the playground.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Juliana Cooper
Laurel Junior Senior High School

PeeWee Dance

Juliana’s Gold Award project initiated a dance team at her school for third- and fourth-grade students to address the gap in self-esteem and self-confidence in girls. She noticed that many girls in high school do not go out for activities because they are scared and have no experience presenting themselves in front of an audience.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Anna Cristini
Ridgway Area High School

Project HeArt

For her Gold Award, Anna tackled the issue of low self-esteem and low self-confidence in young girls of her community. To accomplish this, she found her answer in art. Anna painted small murals or daily reminders within each of the four girls’ restrooms at Ridgway Area Middle-High School. Each piece of art incorporated a positive, uplifting quote from an influential woman.

Congratulations!

girl scouts
western pennsylvania
Gold Award Girl Scout

Sandra Crutchman
Hampton High School

PRISM English Conversation Activity Book

Sandra based her Gold Award project around the need of international students who come to the United States and struggle with learning English. By formulating a plan, she was able to partner with a local outreach organization, determine needs, and meet those needs by creating lesson plans and an activity book that will help the students learn English.

Congratulations!

girl scouts
western pennsylvania
Gold Award Girl Scout

Katelynn Decker
St. Marys Area High School

5 Stand Pavilion

For her Gold Award, Katelynn took on the challenge of rebuilding the Fox Township Sportsmen’s five-stand pavilion. It was old and worn out, so she worked with many people in her community that donated time and resources to help with the efforts of the rebuild to provide the sports club and its members with a new pavilion for their trap shooting.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Callie DeMasters
Mt. Lebanon High School

“The Buildings We See” Historical Book about Mt. Lebanon High School

Callie’s Gold Award project addressed cataloging the history of her school. She created a 416-page book regarding her high school’s history as far back as 1928. Through a total of 203 hours of research in yearbooks, archives, videos, sites, photos, teacher interviews, and contacting a variety of community members, Callie was able to curate content for the book to enrich the alumni and current and future students of Mount Lebanon High School.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Maeve Denshaw
Pittsburgh Public Schools, Taylor Allderdice High School

A Home for the Bees

Maeve’s project involved learning about and constructing five distinct solitary bee houses and installing them in the Pollinator Garden at the entrance of the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium. She also spent time educating zoo visitors and Zoo U students about the importance of solitary bees as pollinators, what distinguishes them from honey bees, and their role in pollinating plants in the wild, as well as cultivated gardens.

Congratulations!

Girl Scouts
Western Pennsylvania
Gold Award Girl Scout

Lily Dudash
Westmont Hilltop High School

All 4 Fun Club

Lily’s Gold Award project provided an opportunity for special needs students at her school to socialize with other students. By creating a club that included special needs students and many others from her school, Lily’s project allowed all the participants to make friends and understand others. The project also encouraged a growth in confidence for the special needs students.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Emily Durila
McGuffey High School

Pillow Cases for Smiles

Emily’s Gold Award project was called “Pillowcases for Smiles.” She distributed 311 pillowcases for patients at the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh in hopes of brightening their day. To help make the project a success, she spoke publicly about the project and organized a sewing clinic for those who didn’t know how to sew.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Sami Edwards
Slippery Rock High School

A Happy You Makes A Happy Me

Sami’s project was inspired by how others have helped her through tough times and ways one could pay it forward. During a workshop with members of her community, the group assembled blessing bags for the homeless, meal bags for the hungry, chemo care bags for cancer patients, and birthday bags for the food pantry. Each participant signed a pledge to pay it forward with a random act of kindness within two weeks to keep the movement continuing.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Alexis Feldman
Upper St. Clair High School

Stress Free Zone

Alexis wanted to emphasize the importance of overall health and wellness to her peers. She helped organize two in-school yoga classes. Thanks to positive feedback and her hard work, a monthly schedule of yoga classes has been implemented at the school. She also developed a Wellness Steering Committee that, over the next two years, will finalize plans for Alexis’ initial goal—to create a “Stress Free Zone” for her fellow high school students.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Blair Finlay
Carlynton Jr./Sr. High School

Crafton Walking Trail

Blair enhanced a walking trail for community members and others to enjoy. “The Crafton Creekside Trail” project included Blair and her team of community members building and adding information signs about the trail and smoothing and manicuring the walking path to make it more noticeable.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Hannah Frantz
St. Marys Area High School

Little Free Library at the Fox Township Park

Because Hannah’s community had only one local library, she was inspired to build a Little Free Library where many people pass daily. In addition to creating a resource for her community, Hannah implemented an ongoing partnership with the township’s recreational board to ensure the ongoing support and resources were available to sustain the community’s new Little Free Library.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Rachael Funtal
Ringgold High School

V.B. Youth Clinic

For her Gold Award project, Rachael led a group of peers in running a volleyball clinic to educate those in her community about the sport and its benefits. She then set up an ongoing annual fund that will help run the clinic for future years in an attempt to keep children active and the sport of volleyball alive.

Congratulations!

girl scouts
western pennsylvania
Gold Award Girl Scout

Elizabeth Gankosky
DuBois Central Catholic

US to Cusco – Connecting Communities

Elizabeth’s project, titled “Us to Cusco,” connected two different cultures through a pen pal system between DuBois Central Catholic and the Helping Hands School in Cusco, Peru. Elizabeth’s presentation in DuBois shared information about Peru, and the pen pal letters opened communication in hopes of promoting a better global understanding. A drive to collect and send supplies to the Helping Hands School encouraged the students and faculty to support others in need.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Kenley Gardner
North Hills High School

Save the Bees

Kenley’s Gold Award project, titled “Save the Bees,” involved coordinating a team to create a perennial pollination garden at North Park, as well as design and build mason bee habitats that were installed at the garden for a lasting positive impact to the bee population. She also developed literature for the North Park Nature Center for future generations and visitors to learn how to create their own habitats and the importance of mason bees.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Angie Genter
North Allegheny High School

Just 4 Girls Sport Camp

Angie focused her project on the decline of females participating in high school sports. She held a week-long clinic with student athletes and coaches to introduce girls to a variety of sports such as field hockey, golf, and soccer. The “Just 4 Girls Sport Camp” was a success and over 100 campers attended.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Amber Glass
Glendale Jr./Sr. High School

Victorious Veteran’s Day

Amber planned a Veteran’s Day Dinner at her local VFW. During the dinner, she mentored younger girls to serve the dinner and take time to talk and listen to the veterans’ stories. There was a craft workshop before dinner that included the younger members of her Service Unit creating flags out of popsicle sticks for the veterans to take home, and she also painted a wooden pallet as an American flag to donate to the Coalport VFW.

Congratulations!

Girl Scouts
Western Pennsylvania
Gold Award Girl Scout

Katherine Gonzalez
Quaker Valley High School

Project Big Bird

To engage more children in outdoor experiences, Katherine chose to design and build a giant bird’s nest for Fern Hollow Nature Center’s Outdoor Classroom. From conducting research to learning how to dig post holes, Katherine was involved in every step of the construction. Her exciting addition to the outdoor classroom was built to prevent Nature Deficit Disorder, the idea that children spending less time outdoors is resulting in a wide range of behavioral problems.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Grace Haggard
Mercer Area High School

Digital Preservation of Mercer County Tombstones

Grace looked at local cemeteries and noticed the chemical weathering of old limestone and sandstone caused by acid precipitation. Because of this, she decided to digitally preserve these stones by photographing them and then uploading the photos to the “Find a Grave” website. This will digitally preserve the stones as they wear away and provide access for people around the world to a loved one’s interment site.

Congratulations!

Girl Scouts
Western Pennsylvania
Gold Award Girl Scout

Rachel Hall
Bishop McCort Catholic High School

Be Confident In Who God Made You To Be

As a teenager who had struggled with self-confidence, she wanted to help other students in her community and speak to them about the importance of self-respect. Her project was a one-day workshop that took place at Camp Zacchaeus that included open discussion and engaging activities that focused on three topics: self-respect, low self-esteem, and peer pressure. The participants left with an understanding of the importance of a positive self-image and tools to help them with this as they grow up.

Congratulations!

girl scouts western pennsylvania
Gold Award Girl Scout

Chelsianna Havko
Montour High School

Renovation of Ken Mawr United Methodist Church Nursery

For her Gold Award, Chelsianna completely renovated and refurbished the Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church nursery. She organized a team, repainted the walls, put new carpet on the floors, installed blinds on the windows, sewed valences, put up wall decals and established a cleaning protocol for toys. The nursery is now a cleaner, brighter, and safer place thanks to Chelsianna’s leadership.

Congratulations!
Claudia held a series of presentations about the art of public speaking for her project. She spoke to almost 500 eighth-grade students at her district’s middle school over the course of two years. Each set of presentations was delivered during the school day. Claudia instructed the students on public speaking, as well as engaged them in several activities.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Brianna Jarrett
Mercer Area High School

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Repeat

Brianna’s project focused on educating people about their waste and inspiring them to be more environmentally conscious consumers. By creating a blog and leading various programs for all ages in her community, Brianna demonstrated and shared her personal experience of reducing waste with others.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Kelsey Josephson
Forest Hills Senior High School

Kelsey’s Caps, Cases, and Crates

Kelsey’s wanted to brighten the days of current and future patients of Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. Her project involved sewing 300 pillowcases, knitting 100 hats, and donating two bookcases and four crates filled with books for children to use during their stay at the hospital. As a former patient who is now declared nephrotic-syndrome free, she understands the underlying fears of the kids and wanted to help to make them feel better.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Kristen Kirst
Elk County Catholic High School

The Pinecrest Library

For her Gold Award project, Kristen wanted to enrich the lives of senior citizens of a local nursing home. To help the residents stay entertained while also supporting their cognitive needs, Kristen implemented a library as a reading resource. She partnered with several community agencies to acquire the books and established an easy-to-use organizational system to help current and future residents benefit from this new resource.

Congratulations!

girl scouts
western pennsylvania
Gold Award Girl Scout

LeeAnn Kuhn
Westmont Hilltop High School

Project Halloween

LeeAnn noticed there was a lack of safety during trick-or-treat night in her community, so she decided to raise awareness. LeeAnn collected Halloween costumes and distributed them for free at her local library, passed out a safety flyer with a glowstick to those kids who came, started a Twitter account with safety tips, and posted a safety video on YouTube.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Hannah Lasko
McGuffey High School

Box for Bats

Hannah noticed that the insect population started to run rampant over the past few years around her community’s soccer fields because there weren’t as many natural predators. Hannah educated her team on the importance and role of bat boxes and how to assemble one. Then, she led a team to construct and install bat boxes for the bats to live in for years to come. Now the soccer fields can be a more comfortable place in the community for people to enjoy.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Alexis Mandell
North Hills High School

Growing Girls “Roots” in STEM Science Fair

Alexis believes every girl deserves to feel comfortable to explore and learn about anything she wants to. This led her to coordinate and run a science fair for girls in fourth through eighth grade to raise their self-esteem when it comes to the sciences and STEM education. Her project, “Growing Girls Roots in STEM Science Fair,” resulted in twenty-three girls submitting science projects and excitedly sharing their findings with others.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Danielle Manning
Norwin Senior High School

Community Trail Renovation

Danielle’s Gold Award project was inspired by the need to create a use for an overgrown, inaccessible portion of land at her church. With the help of community members, Danielle took the lead to create a plan that enlarged the area and added an entrance way, a campsite area, and a fire pit. The space is now more accessible to her community.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Ava Marini
Slippery Rock Area High School

Swim Lessons

Ava’s Gold Award project was teaching swim lessons to the community, targeting younger children who had very little or no swimming skills. After the course of Ava’s lessons, the children drastically improved their skills by being able to swim and tread water. Her “Swim Lessons” project has been continued each year since it was started.

Congratulations!

[Girl Scouts logo]
western pennsylvania
Gold Award Girl Scout

Veronica Martonik
Johnsonburg Area High School

The Enhancement for a Lifetime of Twilight Recreation

Veronica graduated from Johnsonburg Area High School. She led a team to install aesthetic and functional enhancements to the recreational area by the Johnsonburg Borough Building. Her team stained picnic tables, cleaned debris, planted flowers, and installed solar lights for community members to more easily access the facility at night. With these improvements, the area will look more inviting to the public and people can more safely utilize it during evening and night hours.

Congratulations!

girl scouts western pennsylvania
Gold Award Girl Scout

Megan McCafferty
Gateway High School

Voices of U.S. Servicemen and Servicewomen/
Freedom is not Free

For her Gold Award, Megan interviewed U.S. veterans from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and Desert Storm. She gathered their stories and put them into a book titled *Freedom is Not Free, a compilation of Veteran’s Stories*, which was made available to the public. Megan felt these stories can get lost through time and that the stories should be honored just like the soldiers should be acknowledged for their brave service to our country.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Hannah McCollum
Bethel Park High School

Special Needs Art Class

Hannah’s project was teaching art classes to special needs children. In these classes, the students learned how to make crafts from things around the house and how to work together. Having a cousin with autism who loves art, she felt that there was a lack of programs for children with special needs, and she wanted the students to enjoy themselves, meet others, and learn new art techniques.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Michaela Meriwether
Keystone Oaks High School

Little Library

Learning the impact that reading has on a child’s development and comprehension skills, Michaela built and installed a Free Little Library, which she had filled with books for both children and adults. This Free Little Library will serve not only the borough of Whitehall, but also her church, Baldwin Community United Methodist Church and their preschool. Michaela also produced and distributed a pamphlet to her community that outlined the benefits of encouraging development of literacy skills at a young age.

Congratulations!

girl scouts
western pennsylvania
Gold Award Girl Scout

Emily Miller
Elk County Catholic High School

A Touch of Color for Penn Highlands Elk

Emily’s Gold Award project centered on the need for a better view out of patient rooms at the local hospital. Emily’s research included studies that found that patients with a pleasing view in the hospital room recovered more quickly than others. Emily and her team created original landscape works of art that were installed outside of patient rooms that had previously faced a brick wall or wooden divider. Results from a survey deemed her project successful in the eyes of the hospital staff and patients.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Felicity Moffett
Quaker Valley High School

Update to Fern Hollow Field Guide for Volunteers

Felicity saw that Fern Hollow’s field guide was out of date and needed to be redone. She worked with photographers and took photos herself, formatted the field guide using professional software, and helped determine what content to add. While working on the project, Felicity also led groups of children on nature walks to teach them about the various wildlife.

Congratulations!

girl scouts
western pennsylvania
Gold Award Girl Scout

Alexandria Morton
Fox Chapel Area High School

The Music Therapy Patriotic Concert

Alexandria’s project helped dementia and Alzheimer’s patients with memory loss. High school orchestra members and members of a younger Girl Scout troop helped her put on three concerts. The concerts had over 40 residents in attendance, and she was told one of the patients recalled memories sparked by the music while other patients’ personalities emanated for the first time in years. The orchestra director plans to continue her program.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Ava Nachman
Beaver Area High School

Forget Me Knot

Ava’s Forget-Me-Knot project was designed to tie together the community. She raised over $800 to purchase cloth, and she brought together kids from local teams, clubs, and Beaver Area High School to help hand tie 80 blankets for Beaver County’s adoption and foster care center. Participants learned about the local foster care system while working on a service project to help teach them the good of giving to others.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Mia Nicholes
Norwin Senior High School

Trailblazing

Mia led a team that worked to restore a community trail back to walkable and bikeable condition. Mia remembered using the trail during school lessons for an outdoor scavenger hunt during the nature unit. So, it was with these fond memories, that she was inspired to act, gather resources, create a plan, reshape the trail, and bring it back to life for people to use again.

Congratulations!

girl scouts
western pennsylvania
Gold Award Girl Scout

Nadine Oury
Winchester Thurston School

Get Outside: Go – Explore, Discover, Protect

Nadine’s project encouraged people to enjoy the newly protected Linbrook Woodlands Conservation Area, to get outdoors for health and enjoyment, and to learn about protecting habitats. She defined a loop trail on the property that passes several distinct habitats, highlighted features that people could experience, and led a Habitat Hike with Venture Outdoors, during which participants learned about connections between wildlife species, the impact of human activity, and the health benefits of visiting natural areas.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Jodi Patterson
Central Valley High School

Central Valley Cross Country Course Improvement Project

Jodi focused her project on restoring and improving her school’s cross-country course, which had fallen into disrepair. Running has always played a major role in Jodi’s life, so she made directional posts along the course to ensure runners would not get lost and cut trees that were blocking pathways to help people run more comfortably through the trail. To promote the resource to the running community, Jodi also hosted a walk of the course for local runners, walkers, and hikers.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Mackenzie Pifko
Montour High School

Welcome to Pittsburgh

Mackenzie created a children’s book titled *Welcome to Pittsburgh*. This book was made for patients and families at UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh because they come from all over the country. Being in a hospital and an unfamiliar place can be scary, so this book is to help the children learn about the City of Pittsburgh from a child’s point of view. Mackenzie wrote the book and had students from Montour Elementary School illustrate it.

Congratulations!

girl scouts
western pennsylvania
Gold Award Girl Scout

Anna Rickman
Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School

Rally Obedience Trail

Anna’s Gold Award project provides shelter dogs with the exercise and interaction they require to find a new home. She created a trail that consists of eight agility stations to test the dogs mentally and physically, as well as allow the dogs and potential adopters to recognize any chemistry. The trail is already being utilized by dogs sheltered in Butler County.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Deirdre Roberts
Fox Chapel Area High School

Women’s Retreat

Deirdre organized a choir retreat with Dorseyville Middle School and Fox Chapel High School girls. The high schoolers served as section leaders to conduct icebreaker games and help teach complex choral arrangements with several female vocal parts to the middle school girls. Deirdre’s goal was to share her passion of music with the middle school women, show how inspirational music can be, and encourage the girls to keep music in their school schedule.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Cheyenne Rosenberg
Pine-Richland High School

Adolescents Diabetes Education

Cheyenne visited the eighth-grade health classes to talk about Type 1 Diabetes. She also created activity packets for diabetics at a local endocrinologist’s office. As a diabetic herself, she wanted to tell other people about the changes one must make to manage T1D and inspire others to consider careers in the field of endocrinology and to be supportive of diabetics within their community.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Laura Schwendeman
North Allegheny Senior High School

Recycling Through Education

Laura’s Gold Award involved improving her school’s recycling system to help reduce her community’s waste and impact on the environment. To do this, she led her troop and some of her school’s clubs in setting up more recycling cans around her school. To accompany the recycling cans, she also worked to create a series of educational posters and videos to help students and faculty understand what items their local recycling company will accept.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Megan Sennett
McDowell High School

GaGa For Fitness

Megan addressed the physical fitness of youth in her community for her project. She shared her knowledge and enjoyment of the game Gaga Ball by building a gaga ball pit for her community. Megan’s gaga ball pit stands at the Tracey Elementary School where she also provided the curriculum to the gym teacher to educate the students and faculty about the game. To celebrate the newly completed project, she held a school-wide tournament.

Congratulations!

girl scouts
western pennsylvania
Gold Award Girl Scout

Meaghan Shaffer
Franklin Regional Senior High School

The Arts

Meaghan’s Gold Award project focused on the arts and how they can help people in a personal and intellectual way. She led a team of friends and faculty to teach adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities about the arts, starting from the history of where and when it was created to current views. At the end of the project, they each learned that any type of art can help them through their lives, and now they can share that idea with others.

Congratulations!

girl scouts
western pennsylvania
Gold Award Girl Scout

Rebecca Shaw
North Allegheny Senior High School

Computer Science in Middle School

Rebecca wanted to share her passion for computer science. She enhanced the Computer Club at Marshall Middle School for her Gold Award project by writing her own lessons on JavaScript and teaching the lessons to the club members over the course of an entire school year. With a total of 40 lessons, everyone got their own login to a coding website, and Rebecca structured the curriculum, including programming languages and pace, to ensure each student benefitted.

Congratulations!

girl scouts western pennsylvania
Gold Award Girl Scout

Vivian Somes
Penn Trafford High School

Lacrosse Mini Camp

For her project, Vivian organized a lacrosse mini-camp for girls in elementary and middle school. Penn Township does not have a lacrosse program for girls in these grades, so she set out to promote awareness, teach girls about the game, instruct participants on basic lacrosse skills, and encourage healthy living. To accomplish this, she conducted seven clinics over six weeks for the middle school girls and a three-day camp for the elementary school girls.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Isabeau Stager
Elk County Catholic

And Sew It Begins

Isabeau’s project was to teach people how to quilt. She created lesson plans, set up meeting times and gathered the necessary materials according to age groups. The age groups included kindergarten, first and second grades, seventh and eighth grades, and high school. By the end of the project, the classes made 29 blankets which were donated to the local cancer ministry in her hometown.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout
Sabrina Tatalias
Bethel Park High School
Girl Talk

Sabrina’ wanted to promote female empowerment through a small community and mentorship mentality. She coordinated classes for girls of all different age levels and allowed the girls to develop new skills, grow as a leader, and realize which of their skills could use improvement.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout
Lauren Tefft
Upper St. Clair High School
Trash To Treasure

Lauren chose to do a project which involved helping children understand how to help the environment in small ways. She created and led four workshops, during which the children learned the importance of recycling and made musical instruments out of used materials. The children were able to have fun while seeing firsthand how fun it is to help the environment.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Elizabeth Teufel
Mt. Lebanon High School

Running XC Club

Elizabeth decided to start a running program at Jefferson Middle School for sixth graders because there were no organized sports for that grade. This program met five days a week for two weeks during the summer, and the kids worked on setting and reaching their goal of running a 5K at the end of the program. The club was available to boys and girls and focused on getting them in better shape for cross country running or other sports.

Congratulations!

[Girl Scouts logo]
western pennsylvania
Alana’s Gold Award project focused on saving the turtles at Goddard State Park. She learned that the turtles’ natural nesting place was located near a heavily trafficked area, which was causing many turtles to be struck by vehicles and left without a proper place to lay eggs. She created a plan to build the first-ever, man-made turtle nesting site. She led a team of volunteers to build a safe, secluded nesting site at Goddard State Park that all turtle breeds could use.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Kaitlyn Volk
Somerset Area High School

Create Your Own Business Experience

Kaitlyn wanted to introduce kids, ages seven to twelve, to business education. She worked with the Somerset County Library to create a four-week business workshop. Each week hosted a speaker and a business-related lesson, including saving money or business etiquette. Each participant created a business outline for a business they would be interested in pursuing. Their work was displayed for their parents, and they were presented with certificates of completion.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Kathryn Way
Fox Chapel Area High School

Horse Fun

As a young woman with a physical disability, Kathryn wanted to help children with disabilities understand the importance of physical fitness and develop a lifelong appreciation for exercise and animals in a fun, inclusive environment. With the help of Riding for the Handicapped of Western PA, she designed a day of horse fun to teach kids about horse care and safety. They learned proper grooming techniques, as well as parts of the horse and tack.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Margaret Wehler
St. Marys Area High School

Scoliosis

A condition she has dealt with herself, Margaret’s Gold Award project was based on scoliosis. She had no idea what the condition was when she was diagnosed and wanted to change that for other children. She did research and constructed brochures with basic information regarding the disease and how to make living with the disease easier. She also orchestrated a video to be presented to middle school health classes.

Congratulations!
Gold Award Girl Scout

Mackenzie Whalen
Norwin High School

Little Free Libraries of Norwin

After being inspired by a Little Free Library she saw, Mackenzie hosted educational sessions for her community, spoke about the importance of reading, guided a team of volunteers, launched a Facebook page, and secured supplies and locations for these libraries. “Free Little Libraries of Norwin” were installed in five locations in the Norwin area, and some local educators are considering incorporating the use of the library into extra credit projects for the school year.

Congratulations!