

# 2025 Girl Scout Humanitarian



## **Katie Jankowski**

Gold Award Girl Scout  
Graduate, Canon-McMillan HS  
*Paws for a Cause with Rosey*

For her Girl Scout Gold Award, Katie designed a three-fold pamphlet and “Service Dogs welcome” window clings to be displayed in business windows all over Canonsburg and surrounding areas. She visited and talked to the local businesses to spread awareness and to help educate on service dog access issues that handlers are facing in today’s society.

At a young age, Katie was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and had a very difficult time in school and being out in her community. With these struggles, Katie asked her parents for a service dog, and with some research and lots of training, a German Shepherd dog named Rosey became a part of her world.

Little did Katie know how challenging getting a service dog into public places would be, how much the public was unaware of the Americans with Disability Act, and the access issues she and her service dog would face throughout her daily life. However, Katie found the strength inside her through her service dog to face the world with a different perspective knowing that Rosey would always be there to get her through her life with ASD.

Girl Scouts was one of the first places that Katie felt her service dog could go and they were finally accepted. The leadership and responsibility Katie learned through Girl Scouts will never be replaced.

Katie has always had a love for giving back, including completing over six hundred volunteer hours a year since she was six years old. She has received many Presidential Awards, as well as many volunteer awards. Along with her Girl Scout Gold Award, she has also earned her Bronze Award and her Silver Award through Girl Scouts. Katie has been a member of the National Honor Society and president of her 4-H Club. She also served on the Junior Fair Board for Washington County. She is an active member in her 4-H Club where she mentors young children and remains very active with Girl Scouts where she is now a volunteer passing on her skills to the next generation. Currently, Katie is working toward a degree in criminal justice with a minor in psychology at PennWest California University. She hopes to one day earn her master’s degree and work as a probation officer with a K-9.

*Life growing up with autism was not easy, but being a Girl Scout brought some of my fondest memories. As I look into my future, I hope to make many more memories as a lifetime member. Girl Scouts has helped me be resilient, fearless, and a good role model. Being a Girl Scout for over thirteen years has also taught me so many core principles, such as honesty, compassion, fairness, and respect for others as well as myself. Girl Scouts also taught me to be a strong leader and to love myself for who I am.*