



2023-24 Gold Award Girl Scouts

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

When the project is complete, the Gold Award Girl Scout 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.



Saaketa Chalasani

Code Juliettes

Troop 253

Code Juliettes, a non-profit organization, passionately fosters female interest in STEM fields. Through initiatives like club chapters and workshops, it's bridging the gender gap by offering exploration and learning opportunities in computer science, engineering, mathematics, and the natural sciences. These programs not only educate young women about STEM but also provide valuable resources for internships, mentorship, and community projects, empowering them for success in these critical fields.



Srikeerti Chinthala

Fiber Arts for Mental Health

Troop 277

Amidst the COVID pandemic, Srikeerti discovered her passion for knitting and crochet. Inspired by its therapeutic effects, she initiated a fiber arts club at her school. Srikeerti's aim was to enhance mental well-being by offering a space for relaxation, socialization, and skill-building. Partnering with a local hospital, she and her team crafted blankets for inpatient veterans, spreading warmth beyond their campus. Moreover, she developed online resources and guidelines for other fiber arts circles, extending their impact to middle schools and beyond.



Emily Croom

Look What I Can Make

Troop 2744

In America, one of the most pressing issues is food insecurity, with many relying on donated shelf-stable food from pantries to sustain their families. While Emily can't solve hunger alone, she crafted a cookbook, "Look What I Can Make," featuring recipes using common pantry items. After extensive research, she curated over 70 recipes, each accompanied by simple, child-friendly instructions. To enrich the Girl Scout experience, her sister Brownie troop contributed illustrations for the cookbook. Partnering with Second Harvest Food Bank, Emily donated 100 copies, including 50 translated into Spanish, to be distributed to families in need.



Amelia Hill-Pfeffer

Little Libraries

Troop 817

Many children and teenagers, especially those who are homeless, lack access to reading materials. Teachers often prefer physical books as they allow readers to make notes and highlight important content, aiding in comprehension. To address this, Amelia scouted Charlotte for optimal locations to place little libraries for maximum impact. After identifying two key locations, she built and stocked two little libraries, and also maintained over 20 others across the city. By establishing these libraries, including one in a homeless facility, she has contributed to a better educational environment for children and those in poverty.



Samantha Hornung

Organ Donation Informative

Troop 760

Samantha designed a curriculum on organ donation, focusing on educating youth and preparing others to become educators. Starting with school presentations, she developed a training program and created materials, posters, and a video for global distribution. Surpassing her goals, she trained 20 people to continue the education. Inspired by a seminar at a HOSA competition, Samantha embarked on this project, driven by the critical need for organ donors, especially in North Carolina where 3000 people await transplants. Her Gold Award aimed to address this shortage by providing essential information for potential donors.



Anushka Kagade

Experiences of Veteran Volunteers

Troop 220

Since 2020, Anushka dedicated over 600 hours to volunteering at Veterans Affairs Hospital & Clinics in Charlotte, where she has seen firsthand the impact of the COVID pandemic on the VA Healthcare System. Witnessing a significant decrease in volunteers, she decided to take action to address this issue. Anushka created captivating promotional materials including video documentaries, posters, brochures, and banners to highlight the importance of volunteering at the VA. These materials feature interviews with longstanding Veteran Volunteers, sharing their inspiring stories and encouraging others to join in supporting our Veterans and community.



Ella Landman
Nurtured by Nature
Troop 3704

Ella tackled the mental health challenges kids faced post-COVID by building an outdoor classroom and sensory garden at Davidson K-8 school. The outdoor classroom included a teacher's desk and benches for students, surrounded by stumps as chairs. The sensory garden featured a music wall, games like checkers and tic-tac-toe, planters made from tires, and a hopscotch area. Her objectives were to enhance students' mental well-being, improve their focus, foster a positive mindset, and raise awareness about the rise in mental health struggles among students of all ages.



Niav Lorenzo
Interactive Art Exhibit for Students
Troop 1913

Niav aimed to empower artists with the skills necessary for a successful creative career. With guidance, artists can find entry-level jobs or establish themselves in creative communities. She organized workshops for high school students, teaching them entrepreneurship, marketing, collaboration, and brainstorming skills to prepare them for a stable art career. Together, they hosted an interactive art exhibit at Camp North End, showcasing unique, college-level art displays. She equipped these young artists with the confidence and knowledge to organize their own events and pursue their creative ventures.



Swarnim Maid
Raised Gardens: A Way for Everyone to Have Fun
Troop 2644

Swarnim addressed gardening challenges faced by elderly residents in nursing facilities. Many are unable to garden due to physical limitations or lack of knowledge. She led a group of high schoolers in building a raised garden bed in the nursing home courtyard, making it accessible for seniors. The raised bed allowed residents to comfortably plant, maintain, and harvest while standing or in a wheelchair. She provided pamphlets with instructions for planting, watering, and harvesting various crops. Through bi-weekly visits, she ensured residents could apply the skills from the pamphlets and coordinated with the kitchen to use harvested herbs in meals.



Meghana Ponnepati
Sensory Boards for Children

Troop 3473

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects many children in the U.S., while there's no cure for ASD, tactile therapy can benefit children by improving communication skills, enhancing intellectual and physical abilities, and calming hyperactive behaviors. Sensory boards are proven to help relax children, but they can be expensive and not readily available to everyone. To address this, Meghana created and donated sensory boards to Integration Station, an occupational therapy center. She also collaborated with the Autism Society of North Carolina to produce pamphlets on making sensory boards, empowering communities to support children with ASD.



Ella Riera
College Readiness Activity Book

Juliette

Ella created the College Readiness Activity Book, a compendium for mastering the college application journey. Tailored for rising Juniors and Seniors in High School, this tool empowers students to seize control of their future while discovering their unique academic identity. Featuring an abundance of resources, including crafted charts, customizable templates, insightful guides, and more, this book ensures students remain organized without feeling inundated. It's a roadmap through the intricate world of college applications. By fostering self-sufficiency and resourcefulness, this resource alleviates stress for both counselors and parents.



Claire Schilling
Williams Community Garden and Food Forest

Troop 1653

In neighborhoods like Druid Hills, Lincoln Heights, and JT Williams, 40% of households rely on food stamps. Yet, within a 1-mile radius, the only available grocers are convenience stores offering mainly canned goods, lacking fresh, healthy produce. To address this, Claire and her team built a community garden and food forest, featuring 6 raised beds, 4 perennial fruit trees, and 4 beds of vining plants. This accessible garden allows neighbors to harvest fresh produce at their convenience. To ensure nothing goes to waste, volunteers gather excess produce and deliver it to The Bulb, a local non-profit in Charlotte redistributing food to the city's food deserts.



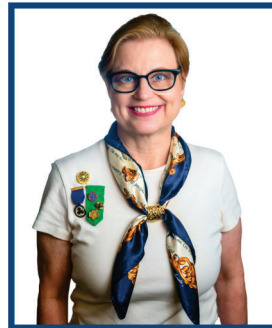
2023-24 Gold Award Committee



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Contina Salyer



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Genetta Vinson



Loreal Williams

Thank you to our esteemed Gold Award Committee for generously dedicating your time and expertise to volunteer, guiding and mentoring these Girl Scouts on their journey to earning the prestigious Gold Award.



Congratulations to all 2023-24 Award Recipients!

Now that you've earned the highest
award in Girl Scouting, you've changed
the community, the world, and also your
life! You are a role model to your fellow
Girl Scouts!



girl scouts 
hornets' nest

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