

!Mail completed application and supporting documents to:

**Manager of Program Services
Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital
4310 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington DC 20008**

Recognition may be given to any registered Girl Scout from 5 through 17 years of age, where evidence presented in accordance with prescribed regulations shows that she saved or attempted to save life under circumstances that indicate heroism or risk to her own life. Recognition cannot be given to anyone who was in any way the cause of or contributory to the incident, or where it appears that the risk involved was merely in the performance of duty or in meeting of an obligation.

BRONZE CROSS Given for saving life or attempting to save life with risk to the candidate's own life.

MEDAL OF HONOR Given for saving life or attempting to save life without risk to the candidate's own life.

Applications for Lifesaving Awards must be requested within 60 days of the incident and submitted within six month after the incident occurred.

Application must meet the following requirements:

- ❑ Application from must be completed giving full details of the incident.
- ❑ Application must be accompanied by a personally signed statement from:
 - the rescuer
 - the rescued person
 - the witnesses (at least two, but not more than three)

Each statement must describe the details of the rescue as the person making the statement recalls them.

- ❑ Application must be signed by the leader
- ❑ Application must be approved by the council

LIVESAVING AWARDS

Lifesaving awards have been part of the Girl Scout program since the beginning of the movement in the United States. Lifesaving awards are a form of recognition given to a registered Girl Scout who has saved or attempted to save human life under circumstances that indicate heroism or risk to her own life. These awards are reserved for those Girl Scouts who have performed heroic acts beyond the degree of maturity and training to be expected at their age.

Training in health and safety is inherent in the Girl Scout program. Leaders are expected to see that girls receive proper instruction in how to take care of themselves and others in emergencies. A Girl Scout, because of the Promise, Law, motto, and slogan to which she has subscribed, is expected to be resourceful, skilled, and competent – to have presence of mind and be of service to others. Whether or not an act of unusual bravery is beyond that which is expected of a Girl Scout is often difficult to determine; each situation has unique factors, and many things need to be taken into consideration.

The initial judgment on the merit of an act that could qualify for a lifesaving award is a responsibility of the local council. The local council is best able to gather the facts rapidly, check them for accuracy of detail, and use judgment in determining whether an act really merits a lifesaving award.

KINDS OF AWARDS

BRONZE CROSS	Given for saving life or attempting to save life with risk to the candidate's own life.
MEDAL OF HONOR	Given for saving life or attempting to save life without risk to the candidate's own life.

When a rescue does not qualify for either of these awards under the criteria given below, the council may still give the girl some form of recognition. The type of recognition awarded should be determined by the nature of the rescue.

BASIC CRITERIA FOR ALL LIVESAVING AWARDS

- ❑ The girl must be a registered Girl Scout at the time of the rescue. (No award is given to adults.)
- ❑ Awards are given for saving, or attempting to save, human life *only*.
- ❑ A girl who has caused or contributed to the circumstances necessitating the rescue is automatically ineligible.
- ❑ Consideration of the girl is paramount. The acclaim accompanying such an award might even be detrimental. If the rescue (or attempted rescue) has been a particularly harrowing experience or publicity is not desired, it might not be appropriate to give an award. Parents, friends, and teachers should be helpful in making a wise decision.

- If a girl meets the above criteria then the following should be considered in determining whether her act of rescue really merits a lifesaving award:
 - Age, maturity, and training of the girl as well as that of the person(s) rescued.
 - Degree of difficulty of the rescue.
 - Nature of risk to the girl's life.
 - Degree of danger to the life of the person(s) being rescued.
 - Amount of assistance received from others.
 - Whether first-aid and emergency-care procedures or proper techniques for water, ice, or fire rescue were used.
 - Extent of good judgment shown by rescuer.
 - Circumstances surrounding the incident (e.g., site, weather).
 - Rescuer's compliance with principles and standards outlined in *Safety-Wise*.

Once it is determined that a girl should be considered for a lifesaving award, the following procedures should be completed.

PROCEDURES FOR LIFESAVING AWARDS

1. An act of rescue is brought to the attention of the council by the troop or group leader.
2. An appropriate person in the council is appointed to work with the leader in collecting full information –such as signed statements by the rescuer, rescued person, and at least two witnesses – as rapidly as possible; to draft a summary; and to present these documents to whoever the council has designated to review the case.
3. It is important that the documentation process begin *immediately* after the rescue and proceed as quickly as possible. The decision to recommend a girl for an award must be reached no longer than six months after the event. If more time is allowed to elapse, persons involved may not be available and the facts recalled may become less accurate.
4. Final recommendation is approved by the council. The council maintains the application for its records and forwards a copy of the paperwork to GSUSA.
5. Council orders a Bronze Cross or the Medal of Honor from the National Equipment Service and grants the award to the girl.

APPLICATION FOR LIFESAVING AWARDS

This application is made on behalf of rescuer (name of Girl Scout)

Address (street, city, state, zip code)	Date of birth	Height	Weight
Age level <input type="checkbox"/> Brownie <input type="checkbox"/> Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Cadette <input type="checkbox"/> Senior	Date of rescue _____ 20__	Time of rescue _____ a.m. _____ p.m.	

Check which of the following occurred

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal bite _____
(specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical accident | <input type="checkbox"/> Poisoning _____
(specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auto accident | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall | <input type="checkbox"/> Respiratory failure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle accident | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire | <input type="checkbox"/> Shock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cave-in | <input type="checkbox"/> Flood | <input type="checkbox"/> Tornado |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drowning (water/ice) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hemorrhage | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |

Name of person rescued	Sex	Age
Address (street, city, state, zip code)	Approx. height	Approx. weight

Relationship to rescuer, if any

DATA REQUIRED REGARDING ALL ACTS OF HEROISM (SEE "ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED ACCORDING TO TYPE OF RESCUE")

I. Diagram of place where rescue occurred – (please submit on separate sheet.)

II. Description of place where rescue occurred and its environs, insofar as they contribute to an understanding of circumstances surrounding the event.

III. Description of exact nature of risk run and extent of good judgment shown by rescuer in performing the rescue.

IV. Physical effect of rescue upon the rescuer; if injured, the extent of the injuries.

V. Description of weather conditions, insofar as they contribute to an understanding of circumstances surrounding the rescue.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED ACCORDING TO THE TYPE OF RESCUE

I. AQUATIC RESCUE/ICE RESCUE

Swimming ability of rescuer <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor	Does the rescuer hold a swimming badge or Red Cross certificate? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – type of badge or certificate?
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Clothing worn by rescuer during the rescue

Swimming ability of rescued person <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor	Clothing worn by rescued person during the rescue
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When brought ashore, what was the condition of the rescued person? <input type="checkbox"/> Unhurt <input type="checkbox"/> Injured <input type="checkbox"/> In shock <input type="checkbox"/> Unconscious <input type="checkbox"/> Dead	Did rescued person live? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Was artificial respiration given? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Name of person who gave artificial respiration	Name of body of water where rescue occurred
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Type of body of water

Lake Pond Stream River Sound Bay Ocean Swimming pool

Composition of Bottom

Sand Mud Rocks Weeds Cement

Type of water flow

Still Running

Speed of current

Depth of water where rescue was made

Distance covered:

To rescued person To safety

Method of rescue

Buoy Line Pole Boar Swimming Other _____
(specify)

If swimming rescue, was any equipment available that was not used? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, indicate equipment	Did rescuer dive to make rescue? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Was rescue squad or doctor summoned <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Time summoned	Time arrived	Was treatment given? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Name of Doctor or rescue provider

Address (street, city, state, zip code)

II. ICE RESCUE

Did ice break under the rescuer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Did rescuer fall into water? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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If rescuer fell into water, how did she get out?

Method used by rescuer to move over the ice	Equipment used in rescue <input type="checkbox"/> Board <input type="checkbox"/> Ladder <input type="checkbox"/> Rope <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
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III. FIRE RESCUE

How was rescued person taken to safety?

How near the flames did the rescuer pass?		What was the denseness of smoke through which the rescuer passed?
Was the fire in a room? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If fire was in a room, what was the rescuer's knowledge of the interior arrangement?	
What was outer clothing worn by rescuer?	What was outer clothing worn by rescued person?	

What aid did rescuer receive, if any receive?

FOR AQUATIC/ICE RESCUE INCLUDE A DIAGRAM SHOWING THE FOLLOWING:

1. thickness of ice near point of rescue
2. Distance from place accident occurred to safety
3. Distance covered by rescuer to point of rescue
4. Location of boards, ladders, or ropes, if any were at hand

FOR FIRE RESCUE INCLUDE A DIAGRAM SHOWING THE FOLLOWING:

1. Dimensions of room or rooms through which rescuer passed in performing rescue
2. Location of doors, windows, stairs, elevators, and fire escape
3. Location of fire at time of rescue
4. Location of rescued person when reached by rescuer
5. Course followed by rescuer in performance of rescue
6. Distance from place of rescue to safety

DIAGRAMS FOR AWUATIC/ICE/FIRE RESCUE

The foregoing facts and accompanying statements of the rescuer, rescued person and witnesses are, in our opinion, correct. We hereby recommend that _____, On whose behalf the application is made, should be awarded the following:

<input type="checkbox"/> MEDAL OF HONOR Given for saving life or attempting to save life without risk to the candidate's own life.	<input type="checkbox"/> BRONZE CROSS Given for saving life or attempting to save life with risk to the candidate's own life.
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Name of leader

Signature of leader	Date
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Address (street, city, state, zip code)

Is rescuer aware that this award is being sought? **Yes** **No**
Please indicate below whether letter of congratulations and/or the actual award should be sent to rescuer or troop leader.

	Rescuer	Troop Leader
Please send letter of congratulations to		
Please send award to		

Please indicate your plans for presenting the award to the rescuer.

Name of authorizing person at Girl Scout Council

Authorizing signature	Date
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Name of Girl Scout Council

Address of Girl Scout Council (street, city, state, zip code)

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