

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Girls Earn Girl Scout's Highest Honor, the Gold Award

Twelve Girl Scouts Receive Scholarships

WASHINGTON – The Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital presented 235 local Girl Scouts with the Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. This prestigious award was earned by Girl Scouts who have demonstrated a higher commitment to service, dedicating over 65 hours of leadership to projects that serve their community. Twelve Gold Award Girl Scouts will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship to help them pursue their higher education goals.

This year's Gold Award projects will have a lasting impact on the local communities, from protecting the environment to helping the homeless. Girl Scout Gold Award honoree, Sreen Thahir from VA, created an exercise program in her community. Thahir said, "I created the "Female Exercise Program at ADAMS (All Dulles Area Muslim Society) so that women in my community would have the opportunity to exercise free from cultural conflicts. Girl Scouts gave me the vehicle to serve my community and culture."

This year, the Girl Scout Council boasts a record number of Gold Awardees. According to Lidia Soto-Harmon, Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital Deputy Executive Director, "We set a new Council record. We are encouraged by the girls' vision and ability to execute meaningful community service projects. These girls are our promise for a brighter future."

The Gold Award is highly regarded by colleges and universities, as well as employers. The following twelve Gold Award Girl Scouts, pictured below, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Sara and Lawrence Phillips Gold Award Scholarship Fund, the scholarship selection panel, and an anonymous donor in the name of Marilyn Carr. Here are the 2009 Gold Award Scholarship recipients, each with a description of her project:

District of Columbia Gold Award Girl Scout Scholarship Recipients



Krysten Thomas
Washington, DC
Get Up and DANCE!

Krysten organized and ran a dance workshop for underprivileged youth ages 5-13, to address physical and mental development in children. She presented dance as a fun way to exercise and build confidence.

Virginia Gold Award Girl Scout Scholarship Recipients



Elizabeth Armitage
Vienna, VA

It's Music to my Ears

Elizabeth led music classes for children from low-income families at the Main Street Child Development Center.



Elizabeth Cantrall
Herndon, VA

The Dorothy T. Freed Memorial Music Library & Laboratory

Elizabeth sorted and catalogued music for the Dorothy T. Freed Music Memorial Library and Laboratory, providing sheet music and music theory information to the community.



Elizabeth Dobrenz
Vienna, VA

Adapted Aquatics Games Book

Elizabeth created a book of aquatic games for the Fairfax County Park Authority's Adapted Aquatics Program.



Rebecca Johnson
Fairfax, VA

Life in a Nutshell and You

Rebecca hosted and taught a stream monitoring workshop in her community to educate people on basic water ecology and the effect on the environment. She plans on finding a permanent stream monitor for a site in her neighborhood.



Blair Keffer
Fairfax, VA

Bats and West Nile: What's the Connection?

Blair wanted to prevent the spread of West Nile virus so she installed bat boxes in local areas. She also developed an informational PowerPoint project that was distributed along with the boxes.

Maryland Gold Award Girl Scout Scholarship Recipients



Alexandria Fletcher
Upper Marlboro, MD

A Walk for Survival

Alexandria organized a Breast Cancer Awareness and Fitness Walk in her community.



Aria Miles
Mitchellville, MD

Interpersonal Communication: The Girls Leadership Conference: Mind, Body and Soul

Aria organized and ran a workshop on interpersonal skills as part of a day-long conference put on by her and other Girl Scouts.



Trisha Patel
North Potomac, MD

Layettes for Babies

Trisha put together backpacks, filled with baby supplies and informative pamphlets for underprivileged pregnant women at the Rockville Pregnancy Shelter.



Sereen Thahir
Chantilly, VA

Female Exercise Program at ADAMS

Sereen implemented a female exercise program at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) to provide Muslim woman with an opportunity to exercise where they don't have to be concerned with cultural conflicts.



Miranda Wesley
Mitchellville, MD

Let Me See Those Pearly Whites: Girls Leadership Conference: Mind, Body and Soul

Miranda organized and ran a dental health workshop for children in her area, teaching them how to take care of their teeth now, and how to preserve them for the future.



Christen Whitaker
Springdale, MD

Transitioning to a Higher Level

Christen conducted seminars preparing 8th graders for high school. The seminars included information on peer pressure, extracurricular activities, academics, and college preparation.

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About Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital

Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital (GSCNC) is a non-profit organization with over 82,000 members, including 58,000 girls in 4,500 troops throughout the District of Columbia, six counties in Maryland and five counties in Northern Virginia. With the help of dedicated volunteers, the generosity of corporations and foundations, and our popular Girl Scout cookie program, GSCNC helps girls from kindergarten to 12th grade become leaders through a wide range of fun and educational activities. GSCNC is headquartered in Washington DC, with satellite offices in Frederick and Waldorf, Maryland; and in Lorton, Leesburg and Manassas, Virginia. To get involved, visit our website at www.gscnc.org.