

Rooted and Rising

Gold Award Girl Scouts 2026





From the Desk of the CEO

Welcome to the 2026 In Your Honor Yearbook!

Girl Scouts Nation's Capital is thrilled to extend a warm CONGRATULATIONS to all the Girl Scouts in our Council who have earned the Gold Award, Silver Trefoil Award, and Silver Award.

This year, we are excited to honor 149 Girl Scouts from 25 counties in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia who have earned the Gold Award, the pinnacle of Girl Scout achievement.

Each of these Girl Scouts identified a real need in their community, built a plan to address it, and saw it through to completion. This kind of initiative, follow-through, and commitment is exactly what Girl Scouting is designed to cultivate.

Well done, Gold Award Girl Scouts!

We're equally proud to recognize 178 Girl Scouts who earned the Silver Trefoil Award, an award unique to Girl Scouts Nation's Capital.

These Girl Scouts have completed more than 100 hours of service in three categories: Girl Scout community service hours, national service hours, and global service hours. This means that this year's Silver Trefoil Award Girl Scouts have contributed 17,800 volunteer hours. Excellent work!

We are also proud to recognize and celebrate 553 Girl Scouts who earned the Silver Award, each investing over 50 hours into their projects. As Silver Award Girl Scouts take on community projects they care about, they are one step closer to achieving the Gold Award. Congratulations, Silver Award Girl Scouts—your dedication makes a difference!

As your CEO, I'm incredibly proud to celebrate these milestones with you.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the troop leaders, advisors, mentors, and parents who have helped make these achievements a reality.

It is with your dedication that we continue to build youth of courage, confidence, and character, whose commitment to service will remain with them for a lifetime—because once a Girl Scout, *always* a Girl Scout!

Kim R. Ford
Chief Executive Officer
Girl Scouts Nation's Capital



The Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God* and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

*Members may substitute wording appropriate to their own spiritual beliefs for the word "God."

The Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and
responsible for what I say and do,
And to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.



Girl Scouts Nation's Capital

Thank you to the Board and Council staff members supporting In Your Honor.

Barbara Krumsiek	President of the Board
Kim R. Ford	Chief Executive Officer
Denise Viau	Camp and Program Manager
Raven Murphy	Senior Teen Program Specialist
Amy Condra	Director of Marketing and Communications
Gabby Perez	Marketing and Communications Specialist

Proclamation

Girl Scouts who earned their First Class, Curved Bar, Golden Eaglet, or Golden Eagle of Merit belong to the Gold Award Girl Scout family. To request your Gold Award Pin and digital credentials, scan the QR code or visit the link below!



<https://tinyurl.com/27syke35>

Official Gold Award Status

WHEREAS, since 1916, Girl Scouts have accepted the challenge of earning the Movement's highest award, thereby demonstrating a commitment to bettering themselves, their communities, and the world; and

WHEREAS, this highest award has had different names over the years, including the Golden Eaglet (1916–39), the Curved Bar (1940–63), First Class (1938–40, 1963–80), and, since 1980, the Girl Scout Gold Award; and

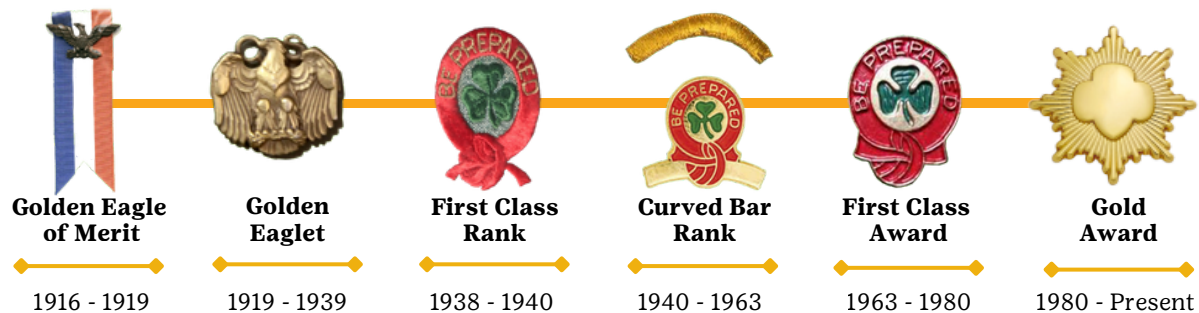
WHEREAS, those who have earned it have shown the same outstanding leadership skills, determination, and resilience that have made Girl Scouts' highest award a unique rite of passage for young women across the Movement;

THEREFORE, Girl Scouts of the USA proclaimed that all who have earned the highest award in Girl Scouts can, beginning January 15, 2019, and henceforth are recognized as Gold Award Girl Scouts, united by their similarities and their ideals, with all rights and privileges therein.



Through the Years

Throughout the history of the Girl Scouts Movement, the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn has been known by different names and shaped by different requirements. Even as the award has evolved, the young people who have earned it have made lasting contributions to their local and global communities.



The Gold Award is Girl Scouting's highest honor. This prestigious award is earned by a select group of Girl Scouts who have demonstrated a high commitment to improving their communities and advocating lasting change.

From March 2025 to March 2026, 149 Girl Scouts from 25 counties in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia earned their Gold Award.

The road to the Gold Award begins with discovery. Girl Scouts use their own values and skills to identify a community issue they are passionate about and then determine the topic and audience for their project.

Before proceeding, each Girl Scout submits a project proposal to the Gold Award Panel. The Panel welcomes all projects for which there is a demonstrated need.

The Panel works with Girl Scouts to support the development of their projects and serves as a mentor along the way.

While working on their projects, each Girl Scout is dedicated to advancing their cause and accomplishing their goals.

All of the projects completed this year will have a lasting, positive impact on our region. From protecting the environment to teaching financial literacy, these Girl Scouts have exhibited outstanding leadership, exceptional organizational skills, and a sincere commitment to improving their communities.

The following pages feature this year's Gold Award Girl Scouts and descriptions of their projects. These summaries are necessarily brief and may not fully capture the scope of each project.

Congratulations to all our Gold Award Girl Scouts!



Creating a Consistent Support System for Underserved Communities



Tejeswini Animireddy
Chantilly, VA

Tejeswini created a sustainable rotating schedule linking clubs and nonprofits to provide STEM activities and supplies for a local family shelter. She designed activities, supply drives, and STEM workshops, then recruited clubs and nonprofits to carry them out and continue them over time. She created guides and training materials for each club and nonprofit, raised money to purchase a ping pong table for the shelter, and organized an annual tournament.

From Waste to Wonder



Yordanos Assefa
Beltville, MD

Yordi created a large-scale art piece entirely from recycled and discarded materials. The project aimed to raise environmental awareness, encourage recycling, and inspire the community to think more critically about sustainability. Her work not only serves as an artistic statement but as a reminder that change begins with responsibility.

Reaching Abroad With Literacy



Shealyn Ayala
Silver Spring, MD

Shealyn renovated a school library in El Salvador. In the summer, Shealyn and her U.S. team traveled to El Salvador to collaborate with teachers, students, and community members at the small school Jorge Washington. Together, they transformed the space into a fully functional library.

Prepared: Educate and Empower Youth with Personal Safety Skills



Varsha Ayalasomayajula
Vienna, VA

Varsha addressed the insufficient knowledge and awareness of personal safety and self-defense among teens by developing and leading a series of interactive self-defense and situational awareness workshops for ninth graders, helping them build confidence, stay safe, and feel empowered in unfamiliar or risky situations.

Building Safe and Inclusive Spaces at Schools



Salma Baig
McLean, VA

After realizing the lack of places to pray and relax in her school, Salma created an inclusive space for religious and wellness use. She transformed an unused space into a "Zen Den" where students could pray, meditate, and take a moment from the stress of school. Salma started a wellness club, and hosted a presentation on wellness at school and how to properly use the Zen Den to maintain it for years to come.

Building a Wigwam



Elizabeth Balogh
Chesapeake Beach, MD

Elizabeth built a wigwam at Jefferson Patterson Park in the Native American village. She collected the materials and built it from the ground up with volunteers. She taught visitors about the importance and impact Native Americans had in Maryland.

Read, Think, Solve!



Tara Bansal
McLean, VA

Tara taught an interactive two-day math camp at a Title 1 school for rising third graders. She dedicated over 80 hours to designing a curriculum, planning engaging activities, and collaborating with school administrators and learning specialists. The camp focused on strengthening core math skills in a fun, supportive environment. Her curriculum was adopted by the school as an annual program.

Willow Fort



Amanda Borger
Rockville, MD

Amanda planted and cared for a willow fort at the Croydon Creek Nature Center. A willow fort is a structure made out of living willow branches that have been planted and woven together to make a living structure. The fort stands as a dome in the nature center's playground. It encourages outdoor play and imagination, and combats the harmful use of plastics as play equipment.



Recycling: A Green Method for a Green World

Devyn initiated and led a recycling program at her church, gave various educational presentations, ran informative booths, and educated church members on how they can incorporate reducing, reusing, and recycling into their lives.

Devyn Bowman
Warrenton, VA



Senior Portraits For All

Anna's "Senior Portraits For All" project aimed to give a broader range of students the opportunity to mark their graduation with portrait sessions, regardless of cost barriers.

Anna Brodsky
Arlington, VA



CogniScholar

Josephine created a website that provides career opportunities to students through interactive videos, quizzes, and more. CogniScholar replicates interactive learning apps that succeed at keeping their users through game-like interactivity. CogniScholar also provides scholarships, fellowships, and other opportunities for a variety of careers to keep information centralized and easy to access.

Josephine Brunn Lake
Silver Spring, MD



Native Seed Library

Isabel taught community classes and launched a seed library to promote native plants, dispel myths, and engage youth and seniors in sustainable gardening.

Isabel Buescher
Vienna, VA



Shining a Light on Simple Nutrition

Alexis addressed the growing need for nutritional awareness among teens ages 12-17 by developing comprehensive resources to empower young people to make healthier food choices. She led interactive workshops, provided easy-to-follow recipe guides, and created educational materials highlighting nutritious alternatives to common snacks and meals.

Alexis Buxo
Lanham, MD



Honoring Juneteenth

Maliah created and ran a program at a local camp to educate campers about the importance of Juneteenth and ways to celebrate and honor it appropriately.

Maliah Cash
Silver Spring, MD



Spread the Smile

Krystal led a team to create care packages for teens with extended hospital stays. Krystal wanted teens to be entertained and feel loved during their time at INOVA Children's Hospital. The care packages included a tie-dyed pillowcase to use on their hospital pillow and handmade activity books.

Krystal Charters
Fairfax Station, VA



Women Helping The Community: Madeira Snails Prevail Club

Sunny founded a community service club at her school to help students from diverse backgrounds engage with their new community through volunteering. Many of her peers, new to the country and unfamiliar with local opportunities, had never participated in service before. Sunny created the club to make volunteering accessible, meaningful, and impactful, fostering a culture of giving among students from all over the world.

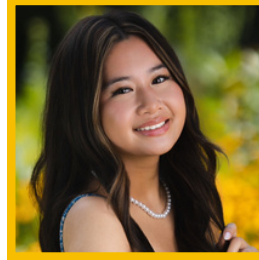
Sunny Chen
Potomac Falls, VA



Ariana Chidambar
Springfield, MD

Marine Biology for Middle Schoolers

Ariana organized and led events at local middle schools to improve students' accessibility to marine biology and educate them on the different pathways they could pursue. She had various experts speak, including renowned researchers, faculty from the National Aquarium, and SCUBA dive masters. Ariana helped to set up marine biology clubs at schools to ensure long-term impact.



Kaitlyn Chien
Potomac, MD

Ear to Ear

Kaitlyn raised awareness about hearing loss for the younger generation. She held online and in-person hearing workshops focusing on the harms of wearing AirPods, created social media content, produced podcast episodes, designed flyers to distribute at schools, and created a website and videos interviewing hearing professionals and community members facing hearing loss.



Natalie Chou
Bethesda, MD

Project Little Green World

Natalie founded Project Little Green World to foster environmental awareness in young children. She introduced them to the core principles of recycling and sustainability by bringing hands-on experiences directly to preschools and Daisy troops, like recycled crafts, storytelling, activities, and guided discussions to spark curiosity and build eco-conscious habits.



Allison Christensen
Bristow, VA

Small Steps, Big Skills: A Learn-To-Sew Initiative

Allison created a sewing program that included workshops and online tutorials. Participants created pillowcases that were donated to deployed military troops.



Ava Clark
Ashburn, VA

Miles with Mindfulness

Ava worked to prevent running injuries in athletes by holding community workshops, creating training plans, and running a social media campaign.



Emma Clark
Ashburn, VA

Reef Relief: Youth for Coral Conservation

Emma addressed coral bleaching, focusing on public education and practical solutions. She distributed packets of reef-safe sunscreen and engaged in conversations about choosing safer products, and shared information on coral bleaching and ocean-friendly habits on social media. Emma created a digital toolkit with worksheets and slideshows that she shared with teachers at 10 schools.



Rebecca Clark
Chesapeake Beach, MD

Nocturnal Neighbors: A Solution for Heartworms

Rebecca organized with her local Humane Society to build bat boxes to protect dogs in the shelter from getting heartworms. Heartworms affected these shelter dogs annually, and antibiotics are very expensive. Bat boxes are scientifically proven to kill up to 1,000 insects each night.



Nicole Cousins
Springfield, VA

Spinning the Wheels on Bike Safety

Nicole taught children about bike safety to combat biking accidents. She worked with Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck's office, Neighborhood and Community Services, and local bike shop RatsCycles to create a Bike Safety Rodeo with safety booths and an obstacle course. She also ran a bike safety table at the annual Lorton Fall Fest to further spread awareness.



Fiona Cox
Takoma Park, MD

Reduce, Reuse, Replant!

Fiona upcycled plastic containers into windowsill planters and encouraged students at Montgomery Blair High School to start raising their own herbs and flowers in economic, beginner-friendly ways. With the help of her family, friends, and troop leader, she repurposed two old tires into sustainable outdoor planters, which were painted and installed on the school campus by Blair's horticulture class.



Coral De la Cruz-Novey
Arlington, VA

Female Filmmakers: Educating the Youth on an Underrepresented Community

Coral created a workshop aimed at middle schoolers to learn about diversity in filmmaking, focusing on women. She shared her project with multiple teachers in her local school district and partnered with Women in Film & Video DC to host her workshop as a permanent resource.



Aurelia Del Bagno
Alexandria, VA

The Outdoor Learning Lab: A Place to Move, Play, and Learn

Aurelia developed engaging, hands-on math learning opportunities in an outdoor setting while supporting sustainability and community involvement. She created an interactive math courtyard to encourage movement-based learning and help students build a deeper understanding of math concepts through play and exploration.



Cleo Dobson
Fairfax Station, VA

Growing Roots

Cleo created an intergenerational program connecting teens and seniors to combat isolation and depression through gardening.



Lauren Dorman
Bowie, MD

She Reads Justice

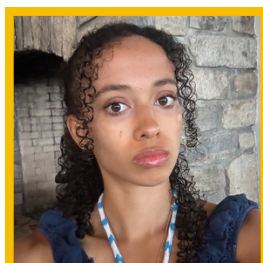
Lauren empowered youth through a legal literacy initiative dedicated to educating teens about their rights and responsibilities within the justice system. Lauren designed interactive workshops that made learning about the law engaging, empowering, and relevant to everyday life. She Reads Justice also promotes leadership and civic engagement by encouraging youth to take an active role in shaping their communities and standing up for justice.



Amy Dugan
Oakton, VA

Spreading Artistic Expression in Schools

Amy led a team to create a mural at Oakton Elementary with students' handprints. She created a website with resources for teachers and aspiring muralists to learn about the mural process and explore more about art and its many techniques. Amy organized high school volunteers to create lesson plans and teach art classes to elementary school students.



Zia Elam
Damascus, MD

Blissful Garden

Zia refurbished her local community garden. She removed pre-existing old beds, leveled the ground, and filled it with the help of local and student volunteers. She bought landscape fabric and gravel, which she arranged into a zen pattern to create the ground of the garden. She did this with help from the community and other Girl Scouts.



Keira Farrell
Frederick, MD

My Oral Immunotherapy Journey Comic Book

Keira created a comic book to help educate people on what Oral Immunotherapy (OIT) is and alleviate the stress for patients, especially children, who might be starting the treatment. They spoke at the national Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE) Conference with participants considering OIT, and handed out free comics. The comic book is now available to patients of Schreiber Allergy in print and digitally.



A Place of Peaceful Rest For Little Ones

Kaylie created a place in a Catholic cemetery for women and families to bury their miscarried or stillborn babies with dignity for little to no cost.

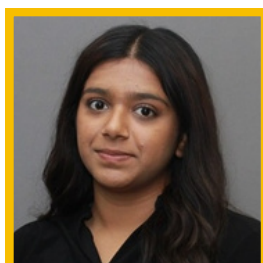
Kaylie Fowler
Waldorf, MD



Mending the Gap

Meley founded Mending the Gap, leading multilingual workshops that help newly arrived families navigate MCPS academics, college prep, and school culture.

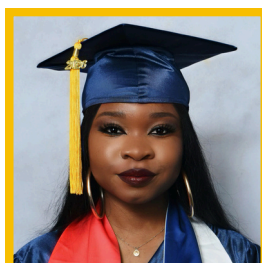
Meley Ghermay
Bethesda, MD



Dental and Eye Care Education for Kids

Anusha created a project focused on improving children's dental and eye care by making it both fun and accessible. Through interactive activities, games, and creative lessons, Anusha taught children how to properly care for their teeth and eyes while explaining why these practices matter. Her project is designed to be kid-friendly and aimed to create excitement about health by giving kids tools and activities they can share with others.

Anusha Ghosalkar
Herndon, VA



Cloak-It

Victoria led workshops teaching girls to advocate for themselves in medical settings and founded a neighborhood teen council to promote youth advocacy.

Victoria Gibbs
Fort Washington, MD



Nuestra America: Hispanic Heritage in the U.S.

Alexandra addressed the lack of Hispanic heritage representation in schools by visiting a local elementary school to share lessons and activities about Hispanic culture. Alexandra developed a portfolio of activities and materials, including art projects, a lesson plan, games, and reading. Alexandra also created resources for teachers to use in the future.

Alexandra Gomez
Arlington, VA



Fidgets and Fashion

Ada started a sewing club at their school with the intention of teaching students practical sewing skills through two projects. In a personal upcycling project, members upcycled or mended clothing they already had. In a fidgets project, students got practical experience of sewing by making fidget aids to be donated to their school counseling and local disability center.

Ada Greene
Silver Spring, MD



Addressing Food Allergy Awareness and Safety in Schools

After experiencing a life-threatening food allergy reaction at school, Zoie realized staff, including teachers and the school nurse, lacked critical knowledge about symptoms, severity, and medications. She educated nurses, teachers, parents, and students across every elementary school in Upper Montgomery County using presentations, interactive materials, and a tri-fold table-top poster.

Zoie Gregory
Gaithersburg, MD



Honoring Local Heroes

Kennedy honored local active military and veterans. Military personnel were invited to come and enjoy a car show. The show raised money to hang banners around town.

Kennedy Gross
St. Leonard, MD



Aaliya Haque
McLean, VA

Empowering the Community Through Public Speaking

Aaliya used her experience from speech and debate to design a public speaking program for elementary schoolers in her community. She held sessions to equip students with vital communication skills they would not have had access to otherwise.



Emma Harmon
Herndon, VA

STEM-tastic

Emma created a STEM club for low-income elementary schoolers at Clearview Elementary School. She worked with the Herndon High School robotics team to support the club, where students learned how to design, build, and code LEGO robots in teams.



Eman Hussain
Woodbridge, VA

Bridging Generations, One Bench at a Time

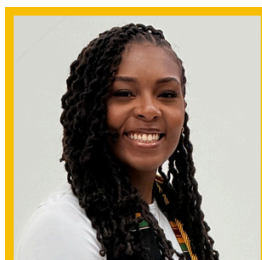
Eman supported the mental and physical well-being of seniors at A Tribute at the Glen. She noticed that the seniors lacked proper outdoor amenities and activities to encourage social interaction and physical exercise. Eman organized a walking club, a gardening club, yoga sessions, and mental games to engage residents. She built benches, providing comfortable spaces for seniors to relax and gather, as well as flowerbeds based on the seniors' interests.



Anya Jain
Herndon, VA

Healthy Snacks Cooking Class for Teens

Anya led nutrition classes at Anna Sudha Community Kitchen, teaching middle and high school students how to make quick and healthy after-school snacks using accessible and affordable ingredients. Through hands-on lessons, students built practical cooking skills, learned basic nutrition concepts, and gained confidence in preparing their own meals. Anya created an Instagram account to share simple recipes, reinforce lessons, and expand access beyond the classroom.



Jaelynn James
Accokeek, MD

Mindful Art

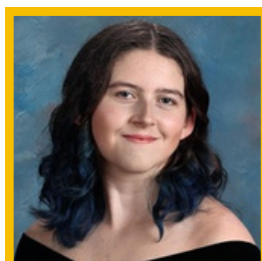
Jaelynn held a two-day workshop that highlighted the themes of mental health and expression, exploring art therapy and using it as an outlet. She collaborated with the Nationals Youth Baseball Academy after-school program and was a coach during an art program, overseeing various art activities. During the final weeks of the program, she guided participants through a self-expression, individuality, and positive affirmations activity.



Anya Jolly
Arlington, VA

Soccer Bringing Community Together

Anya built a turf field and led soccer clinics to expand access for Hispanic youth, improving participation, equity, and mental health outcomes.



Kathryn Jones
California, MD

Caring For Your Car and Yourself: Vehicle Maintenance and Road Safety

Kathryn wanted to educate teens in her community on how to properly take care of their vehicles. She partnered with a State Trooper and a local mechanic to set up a series of workshops where teens could refresh their road safety knowledge and learn how to perform basic maintenance tasks, like changing a tire and checking oil.



Aarushi Kanigicherla
Falls Church, VA

Stellar Awareness: Educating Young Minds About Astronomy

To increase astronomy awareness among students, Aarushi hosted stargazing sessions at her middle school. She taught them how to identify constellations, the optics of the Astronomers Without Borders Telescope and Seestar S50, and astrophotography.



Katie Kenney
Silver Spring, MD

North Hills Community Garden

Katie built a pollinator garden in her community to beautify a historic and overgrown space. In addition to supporting her local population of pollinators, this project created an opportunity for her to teach community members how to plant a garden, transplant plants, identify native and invasive species, promote health and safety in gardening, and share the importance of native plants to her local ecosystem.



Kathryn King
Springfield, VA

Outdoor Classroom at Orange Hunt Elementary

Kathryn built an outdoor classroom for Orange Hunt Elementary School. The classroom included an outdoor whiteboard, storage, and seating for students and faculty to use during school and for other troops to use as a meeting space after school.



Heather Krell
Huntingtown, MD

Rescue Wings

Heather led a project at the Humane Society of Calvert County to prevent erosion, improve safety, and restore the sanctuary for visitors.



Divya Laddha
Chantilly, VA

Media Literacy Awareness

Divya created resources to educate middle schoolers on how to navigate media literacy skills in the digital age. Divya specifically focused on creating long-term, sustainable media literacy habits that are easy to keep up. Divya gave a presentation at school, shared resources with the administration, and reached out to local representatives and the school board administration about the importance of media literacy.



Zara Lakhanpal
Bethesda, MD

Building Bridges: Increasing Inclusivity In Our Community

Zara addressed the social isolation that neurodivergent youth often face and the stigma surrounding neurodiversity. Zara founded a school club, Building Bridges, to raise awareness about neurodiversity and promote inclusion in her local community. By partnering with The Arc Montgomery County, Zara facilitated monthly workshops for high school students with intellectual and developmental disabilities that focused on arts and crafts, board games, and sports.



Samia Lalani
Centreville, VA

Art For Emotional Wellness

Samia used free art workshops to promote mental health and partnered with a school club to reduce stress, build resilience, and support student well-being.



Vi Le
Rockville, MD

Financial Literacy for Teens

Vi led workshops and designed online learning modules to teach teenagers essential financial skills such as banking, managing credit, and navigating student aid. She focused on making complex financial concepts engaging through practical examples and interactive activities tailored to middle and high school students. Her free online modules are available on TalentLMS, and her workshop materials have been adopted by her county student government association.



Caroline Lee
Arlington, VA

Educating Youth on Mental Health Causes and Strategies

Caroline created a curriculum about teen mental health that included information about the root causes of teen mental health struggles, ways to identify poor mental health in teens, and strategies teens can use to help themselves and others take care of their mental health. She presented this to her high school and created a website that serves as a hub of teen mental health information. She also founded a mental health club at school.



Natalie Leong
Oakton, VA

Diversity for Development

Natalie brought more diverse reading materials into local school libraries in an effort to encourage empathy among the students towards other cultures, and foster connections—through and to literature—to combat falling literacy rates. She donated thrifted books to elementary schools and hosted book talks for the students where she discussed culturally diverse and accurately representative literature.



Hannah Lloyd
Annandale, VA

Compost: Giving Back to Mother Nature

Hannah educated her community about the importance of reducing food waste through composting. She shared her message through social media posts, in her church community, and at a local elementary school's environmental club.



Helen Maag
Arlington, VA

Keeping Arlington Students Warm on the Playground

Helen taught over 40 students how to crochet, developed her own crochet pattern, and donated more than 50 winter hats and mittens to the Arlington Clothesline. The Clothesline provides high-quality, free clothing and accessories to children in families with low incomes living in Arlington, Virginia. The hat pattern was published on neighborhood groups and Ravelry to further encourage people who crochet to make and donate hats in their communities.



Debora Marquin Lucas
Takoma Park, MD

Showcasing African American History Through Art

Debora created a curriculum for middle schoolers to research and create sculptures of notable African Americans.



Mickey Martin
Ashburn, VA

Teaching People to Care for Rescue Dogs

Mickey taught communities about rescue dog care, the 3-3-3 rule, and adoption needs to reduce returns and help more dogs find loving, lasting homes.



Astrid Maslin
Annandale, VA

CPR Awareness

Astrid created CPR awareness by holding classes on CPR for upper elementary and middle school students. The instruction focused on what CPR is, its importance, when it is needed, and how to perform CPR.



Hana Massarueh
Rockville, MD

Beginner's Guide to Exploring the Outdoors and National Parks

Hana created a comprehensive Guidebook to the outdoors. She has gone on multiple National Park and camping trips with her family and noticed that there were very few young people and people of color, and wanted to encourage more people like her to explore the outdoors. Her guide includes the history of the National Parks and guides to the 4th Grader's Every Kid Outdoors Pass, fire safety, camping, packing, how to start a campfire, outdoor cooking, camping recipes, and more.



Averie Matthews
Bethesda, MD

Women In Arts, Your Creative Voice Matters

Averie spread the word about women artists who have made significant contributions to the fine arts throughout history. She ran a series of hands-on art workshops where participants learned about women artists and created their own works based on them. Averie then displayed the student works along with information about the artists in local libraries and recreation centers.



Hannah McGuiggan
Ashburn, VA

Spreading Sexual Assault Awareness to Teens

Hannah raised sexual assault awareness in her community. Noticing that many teens lacked clear information about what sexual assault is and how to recognize and report it safely, she set out to educate and empower her peers. Hannah created two informative videos for teens and adults that provided information about consent, boundaries, and reporting procedures. To ensure a lasting impact, she designed brochures for her school's office.



Maggie McLaughlin
Rockville, MD

Diversity in Children's Books

Maggie wrote a children's book, "The Adventures of Yarn Princess," about a princess who loves to knit and never wants any of the gifts that men bring for her, until a female knight brings her a pair of knitting needles! She self-published the book and put it in libraries at local elementary schools. Maggie hosted workshops for Girl Scouts on diversity in children's books and helped them write their own stories with characters like them.



Lucy Meder
Arlington, VA

Educating Middle Schoolers on Healthy Ways to Cope With Stress

Lucy led workshops and created library displays to teach middle schoolers healthy ways to cope with stress, increasing their coping skills and awareness.



Sibel Mehmed
Oakton, VA

The Power of Renewable Energy

Sibel planned and led three solar car-making workshops for kids in her community. The workshops incorporated elements of STEM, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and sustainability. She helped kids build solar cars and taught them about the importance of renewable energy, specifically solar power.



Elise Mengason
Silver Spring, MD

Women in Engineering and Motorsports

Elise created a presentation and designed a hands-on project to teach girls in middle school about engineering and motorsports. She built battery-powered fan cars to teach them about aerodynamics, circuit electronics, and weight power ratios to inspire them to pursue engineering as a career and become the next generation of role models.



Layla Michener
Arlington, VA

Native Plant and Pollinator Garden

Layla created a native pollinator garden, instructional artwork, and workshops at a regional park to educate park visitors on the importance of native plants.



Emlyn Monti
Bristow, VA

Birds, Bees, and Pollinating Species

Emlyn created and planted a community pollinator garden in collaboration with the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre. After years of hard work and hours of extensive research and planning, her garden will be a permanent fixture to inform and engage those who visit the site, as well as provide a vital environment for native pollinators to survive and thrive.



Chloe Moss
Brandywine, MD

Telephone in the Wind

Chloe created a reflective and supportive space where community members can express messages to lost loved ones. She promoted emotional healing, encouraged open conversations about grief, and helped individuals find comfort, connection, and closure in a peaceful environment.



Interactive SEL For Elementary Students

Saanvi built an SEL video game and lessons for elementary students, strengthening emotional skills, empathy, and conflict resolution through gameplay.

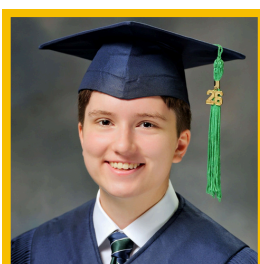
Saanvi Mupparthi
Chantilly, VA



Connecting Through Cards

Caitlyn created cards for holidays, birthdays, and special occasions for seniors in local retirement homes suffering from isolation. She founded Connecting Through Cards, which provides blank cards to encourage seniors to stay connected with their loved ones. She hosts a club at school to make cards and holds workshops at retirement homes to engage directly with seniors. Caitlyn runs a social media page and website to educate others.

Caitlyn Murphy
Fairfax Station, VA



Try Hockey: Building Roller Hockey Communities

Rowan founded an educational Instagram platform and led free roller hockey clinics to combat the economic and developmental barriers of hockey.

Rowan Myers
Herndon, VA



AI For All

Hasini created "AI for All," developing a Python/AI curriculum and hosting workshops to empower underserved youth in tech.

Hasini Nandimandalam
Fairfax, VA



The Art Line: A Free Little Art Gallery

Olivia's Free Little Art Gallery (F.L.A.G.) is a community-driven initiative designed to highlight accessible art and transform ordinary spaces into vibrant cultural hubs. Her FLAG, installed on a run/walk path in northern Virginia, encourages local artists, including youth and emerging talent, to display their work in a small, weather-protected public gallery, making art freely available to everyone regardless of background or economic status.

Olivia Naughton
Vienna, VA



Splashtastic Fun With Water Safety

Fiona, who is a lifeguard, found there was a lack of swimming resources for adults. She provided swim lessons and water safety to adults in her community.

Fiona Nellis
Silver Spring, MD



Impactful Reading

Noemie improved literacy rates and access to reading materials for immigrant and Hispanic families with low incomes. She partnered with HACAN to host educational workshops that introduced parents to free community resources, including public and school libraries, Little Free Libraries, museums, and bookstores offering free events or discounted books. She provided bilingual materials and demonstrations to families.

Noemie Nerette-Arciniega
Annandale, VA



Port-a-Pillows

Amanda hosted workshops and uploaded videos for high school students to learn how to make port pillows. They were donated to hospitals in her community to help cancer patients with their journey.

Amanda Nguyen
Burke, VA



Anna Nguyen
Laurel, MD

Balancing the Pressure: Managing Stress in High School

Anna designed a project to help high school students better manage academic and personal stress. The project includes interactive in-person and virtual workshops that introduce practical coping strategies based on cognitive-behavioral therapy and mindfulness. Anna also created a website so students can access information and support at any time. The project responds to a real and growing need for mental health support in schools.



Chau-Anh Nguyen
Vienna, VA

Spreading Vietnamese Culture and History

As a leader of her school's Vietnamese Student Association (VSA), Chau-Anh organized school and county-wide cultural and bonding events with other VSAs, including a guest speaker series for AAPI Month, a cultural dance performance for World Heritage Night, and county-wide VSA picnics.



Kaitlyn Nguyen
Lorton, VA

Unlearning Diet Culture

Kaitlyn addressed negative body image and body dysmorphia by teaching the principles of intuitive eating to help teens build healthier relationships with food, as well as themselves. Through multiple workshops, she educated teens on recognizing harmful beauty standards and negative body image, showing that these can affect one's confidence and self-esteem.



Namtran Nguyen
Silver Spring, MD

Be the Change: The Fight Against Underage Drinking

Namtran hosted multiple workshops across D.C., Maryland, and Virginia to educate her local Vietnamese community about the harms of underage drinking. Through in-person and virtual sessions, she taught over 100 individuals about what underage drinking is, how it affects the Vietnamese community of the DMV area, what to do in a situation where you feel pressured, how to help someone else who may be struggling with alcoholism, and more.



Lauren Nocerito
Springfield, VA

Help Women Defend Themselves

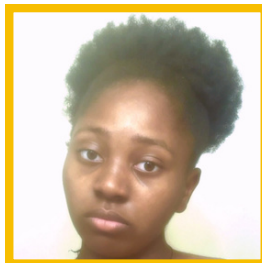
Lauren developed a program to teach women nonphysical skills that will help them stop an attack and retreat to safety. She hopes to contribute to the prevention of sexual assault against women, though the self-defense mindset presented in the workshop will apply to any attack, regardless of the motivation.



Confidence Obioha
Silver Spring, MD

Garden of Confidence

Confidence worked with local youth to create a garden at a senior home and instilled confidence and patience in them as they learned to interact with nature.



Melat Ojiaku
Silver Spring, MD

Panda Paws Physics Club

Melat created the Panda Paws Physics Club at East Silver Spring Elementary School to bring fun, interactive, and accessible STEM education outside the classroom.



Vaylee Olack
Martinsburg, WV

The Feel Better Box

Vaylee's Feel Better Box initiative combats hygiene insecurity by providing free hygiene essentials, raising awareness, and inspiring lasting community change.



Art Therapy For Kids in Care

Viola fostered the use of art therapy as a mental health resource for children in hospitals. She gave presentations at her school to raise awareness on the topic and donated handmade art therapy kits to the Children's National Hospital.

Viola Pande
Chantilly, VA



Upcycling and Repurposing Clothing for Sustainability

Lily taught young consumers why fast fashion is harmful—to the planet, to workers, and to communities. She helped them develop practical skills for making the clothes they already own fit better and be more appealing and wearable for longer.

Lily Payne
Chantilly, VA



Let's Talk: College

Jameila created a college readiness program for under-resourced students delivered via podcasts and a website, providing comprehensive guidance on college applications, financial aid, scholarships, and more. The podcasts featured insights from college admissions officers, current students, and education experts.

Jameila Pennant
Bowie, MD



Promoting Solar Power: Bethesda to Kenya

Lia addressed the root cause of the underuse of solar energy by focusing on education and real-world applications. By leading educational meetings through her school's Green Team, she provided information and interactive experiences that helped students understand how solar energy works and why it is a realistic option. Through presentations at her school and church, she empowered others to see solar energy as a practical solution.

Lia Perera
Bethesda, MD



Beyond the Book

Evelyn led a literacy initiative, partnering with the nonprofit organization Read Early and Daily to conduct workshops and provide free books, inspiring creative reading and expression.

Evelyn Petty
Arlington, VA



Disconnected: Diving into Teen Screen Addiction

Sydney developed different strategies to help adolescent students eliminate their screen addiction. By working with psychologists and educators, she also helped students transform their screen time into more healthy, positive, and beneficial means.

Syndey Pham
Fairfax, VA



Engineering a Future for Girls in STEM

Annalina led a workshop for middle school girls where they completed engineering projects, built scientific models, and interviewed a woman scientist in order to build the girls' confidence in their STEM abilities and to encourage them to pursue STEM careers.

Annalina Pickens
Herndon, VA



Field Hockey Camp

Alyssa hosted a beginner level field hockey camp to bring awareness to the sport and help teams across the county. The camp was hosted for participants from elementary school through high school. The camp brought girls into future teams and helped prevent teams from dissolving.

Alyssa Placek
Waldorf, MD



Briana Porter
Manassas, VA

Community Inclusivity Through Visual Art: Art Is For Everyone

Briana used art as a tool to bring people from diverse backgrounds together. Through a series of collaborative art workshops, participants—including individuals with disabilities—worked side by side to share ideas, build connections, and express their perspectives creatively. These workshops culminated in a mural at Colgan High School, created collectively to represent unity, respect, and belonging.



Caroline Prisco
Alexandria, VA

STEM Gems: Sparking a Love of Science in Girls

Caroline created and developed a science fair training and partnership program with a community program for underserved girls that provided opportunities for high school students to mentor younger girls who may not have access to science resources. She provided girls with the opportunity to learn about STEM fields that may be of interest to them and instilled in students a love of the sciences.



Lubabah Qazzaz
Winchester, VA

Upgrading Community Center Building

Lubabah aimed to address the fact that few people came to her local community in Winchester. She kicked off her project by organizing several events for the community, including a bake sale fundraiser and a community yard sale. She then worked with her team to repaint the inside of the community center. After that, she organized many more programs. As a result, her community felt more welcome and wanted to spend time at their upgraded center.



Sumayah Qazzaz
Winchester, VA

Bringing the Community Together

Sumayah refurbished a center's playground by painting the play structure and mulching the surrounding area. She also started a community garden and founded a committee to care for it.



Abigail Rambo
Stevens City, VA

Dark Skies Disappearing

Abigail aimed to inform her community about light pollution and its effects on wildlife. She achieved this by creating workshop programs, YouTube videos, and a fundraiser for a local wildlife care center.



Zoey Rees
Bethesda, MD

Greentree Shelter

Zoey renovated a teen room in her local family homeless shelter. She distributed surveys to the residents and met with the Greentree Shelter manager. Zoey held several different fundraisers and solicited donations for materials. Zoey partnered with grOH!, a playroom design company, to plan a calm, comfortable, and colorful design. Zoey transformed the teen room by cleaning, painting, decorating, and adding all new furniture and supplies.



Jesse Reitman
Cabin John, MD

Brookhaven Elementary School 3D Printer and CAD Curriculum

Jesse raised money to purchase a 3D printer for Brookhaven Elementary School. They led three classes of fifth graders through the process of designing custom 3D printed parts and created a curriculum and instructional videos for the STEM teacher to ensure the project could be continued in future years.



Sarah Roelke
Burke, VA

Championing Native Plants and Pollinators

Sarah led education programs and planted native trees to support pollinators, restore ecosystems, and inspire sustainable practices in the community.



Small Critters Large Love

Hailey led education efforts, built sessions to boost small animal adoption, created enrichment feeders, and shared resources to support shelters and future impact.

Hailey Rook
Arlington, VA



Riley Rosenthal
Leesburg, VA

Prosperity Through Inclusivity: The Power of the Golden Rule

Riley educated the public about neurodevelopmental disorders, what it means to be neurotypical and neurodivergent, and how to be a kind and supportive friend to those with neurodevelopmental disorders. Riley taught local Girl Scouts about these topics through in-person and video-call presentations, as well as publishing a YouTube video with the content for anyone to see online.



Food Pantry Nutrition Newsletter

Bryn reduced food waste by creating pantry-based recipe newsletters to help families use food effectively, build healthier meals, and boost confidence.

Bryn Roth
Dunkirk, MD



Sheza Saad
Woodbridge, VA

Diabetes Defense: Preventing Type 2 Diabetes and Promoting Healthy Living

Sheza delivered educational workshops to middle school students to promote the development and maintenance of healthy habits to prevent Type II Diabetes.



Music For Young Enthusiasts

Guinevere designed and led a series of free music workshops to make musical skills more accessible within the community. With a particular focus on reaching low-income families who often face barriers to private lessons, Guin built welcoming, beginner-friendly sessions that introduced participants to musical genres, pitch, sight-reading, and foundational music theory.

Guinevere Schillinger
Chantilly, VA



Emily Schmitt
Dumfries, VA

Emily's Closet

Emily created a sustainable clothing closet to serve the community at no cost. She provided clothing, shoes, accessories, toiletries, and small household goods. Emily launched an education campaign focused on the importance of textile recycling, living sustainably, and combating fast fashion in everyday life.



Kids Read Sheet Music

Inspired by her musical background and research supporting improved cognitive development with learning to read music, Stella developed an easily accessible online program for young children to read sheet music. She also organized multiple free events, "Intro to Sheet Music," for the underserved population to assess her pilot program and reach children in person. The program, *Stella_Sheet_Music*, continues to be available online.

Stella Schreiber
Chevy Chase, MD



Emily Schuessler
Huntingtown, MD

Hearing Loss in Our Youth: Identification and Education

Emily educated parents in her community about the potential for hearing loss in their children and what to do if they believe their child has hearing loss.



Katherine Semanchik
Reston, VA

Big Sister Club

Katie addressed embarrassment when discussing the topic of menstruation and feminine hygiene by creating a club for girls ages 10–12 that answered questions they may have about their bodies and themselves. She, along with other "Big Sisters," shared their own experiences with menstruation and period products, as well as advice on how to navigate their changing bodies.



Anabel Sha
Rockville, MD

Sign For Alliance

Anabel founded Sign For Alliance, a youth coalition dedicated to bridging the social and communication gap between deaf/hard-of-hearing (D/HOH) and hearing communities. She partnered with the D/HOH program in Montgomery County Public Schools to design and host inclusive events that included machine learning workshops and guest speakers, ultimately reaching students from across the D.C.-Maryland-Virginia region.



Anoushka Sharma
Chantilly, VA

Leaf Litter to Garden Glitter

Anoushka led an initiative to repurpose fall leaves locally; reduce carbon emissions from trucking leaves, fertilizer, and soil amendments; reduce landfill usage; and organically improve soil health. She worked with homeowners in her community to leaf mulch in their yards, and then hosted a webinar to discuss the benefits of leaf mulching and share the project with others. She also created a website to share her progress and document her work.



Junnah Sheikh
McLean, VA

Brain Break Club

Junnah started the Brain Break Club at her high school to reduce stress and provide students with a relaxing break during the school day. Through activities associated with childhood memories, her initiative was an actionable solution to positively impact the mental health of students at her school, helping to ease tension and build community.



Whitley Shields
Fort Washington, MD

Shades of Brown on the Green

Whitley created Shades of Brown on the Green, a golf clinic empowering girls of color through exposure, confidence, and representation in golf.



Leo Shifflett
Owings, MD

Birdability

Birdability brought awareness and education to the community about native birds and conservation in the Chesapeake Bay. Leo created and implemented three informational signs and activities that residents and visitors can read and interact with to learn more about the place they live. The activities were designed with the intention of teaching students on field trips to the parks about ospreys and other native birds.



Ranna Shpoon
Manassas, VA

The Double-Edged Sword of Water

Ranna raised money for and created a well in her parents' hometown in Afghanistan, ensuring it was accessible to everyone in the area. The well provides clean water daily and will continue to be sustained for the next 50 years. Ranna met with the U.S. Coast Guard and Fairfax County Marine Unit to create water safety awareness videos in English, Pashto, and Farsi for newly arrived Afghans.



Evangeline Siarey
Silver Spring, MD

Women in STEM

Evangeline worked with the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) club from her high school to give a presentation to young girls on the power of women in STEM fields and how to achieve their goals in a male-dominated world. She showed one of SWE's race-winning electric cars, introducing the girls to a local, real-world example and empowering them to chase their dreams.



Protecting Our Local Watershed: Runoff and the Native Life of Our Streams



Aurelia Smith
Takoma Park, MD

Aurelia created a lesson plan to teach youth how they can help fight the effects of climate change, pollution, and environmental damage. She led two educational workshops where she taught kids how to support the local environment and watershed, the importance of native species and how to identify them, and ways to promote awareness and activism creatively. She designed and installed a mural on a storm drain in College Park, Maryland, titled: "Only Rain Down The Drain."



Hannah Smith
Winchester, VA

Sustainable Gardening

Hannah provided a fully sustainable garden for the Winchester Rescue Mission. She included additional equipment and information they would need in order to maintain a fresh source of produce year round.

Potomac Overlook Native Pollinator Garden and Education



Caroline South
Arlington, VA

Caroline took an empty patch of land at Potomac Overlook Nature Center and turned it into a native pollinator garden by building raised garden beds and planting native flowers. She also taught younger Girl Scouts about the importance of native pollinators in our environment.



Elizabeth Spencer
Lorton, VA

Henrietta Lacks - A Graphic Novel

Elizabeth wrote, illustrated, and self-published a graphic novel on the life of Henrietta Lacks and HeLa cells. She presented this graphic novel to elementary schools to spread awareness of Henrietta's story. She also taught students about DNA and how HeLa cells have impacted medicine. Elizabeth also performed a science experiment with fifth graders to extract strawberry DNA and understand more about the foundations of life and human genetics.

Easy-to-Build Sustainable Dispensers to Improve Public Access to Dog Waste Collection Bags



Elenore Stewart
Arlington, VA

Elenore researched the impacts of dog waste on the environment and hosted a workshop on how to build dog waste bag dispensers. She produced an instructional video on the problems with dog waste, sources of free bags, and how to build the dispensers. Working with the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation and neighborhood associations, she installed four dispensers in Arlington parks at locations convenient to dog walkers.



Arienna Sudama-Saroop
Chantilly, VA

Decreasing the Global Footprint One Stitch at a Time

Arienna created a how-to embroidery book to encourage people to customize their clothing instead of buying new. She taught the local community hand sewing skills such as how to fix a rip, add a patch, and add a button. She also created a space for people to donate traditional South Asian clothing, and gave it back to the local community for free.

Teaching Girls About Women's History



Lily Swope
Silver Spring, MD

Lily created a program for Girl Scouts and school tours attending the Belmont Paul Women's Equality National Monument. She researched and constructed a comprehensive guide to help Park Rangers and volunteers learn and adjust their tours for younger audiences. She also created materials for a Suffrage Cat Scavenger Hunt to display the history of women's voting rights to elementary schoolers in an entertaining, easily digestible way.



Eliza Szymendera
Hollywood, MD

The Gardening Guide

Eliza designed a book to help beginner gardeners learn how to plant and harvest vegetables at her local community garden.



Kayla Tock
Sterling, VA

Saving the Trails

Kayla developed a community trail improvement project where she planned, designed, and built new features to make the trail safer and more accessible for everyone. She worked with community members to identify needs, gathered materials, and led the project from start to finish. Her work improved the overall experience of the trail and created a lasting impact for local residents.



Areeba Usman
Woodbridge, VA

Eid For Every Child

Areeba addressed the lack of support for Muslim children during Eid by creating and leading a community-based program that provided personalized Eid gifts and essential items to 50+ children in need. She collaborated with her mosque's social welfare committee, coordinated donors and volunteers, and managed planning, donation collection, organization, and delivery. She developed a toolkit and plan for the project to continue annually.

Orienteering and Stations of the Cross for Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church

Ashlynn completed a Stations of the Cross around the outside of Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church. She also mapped out a one-mile orienteering course around the entire campus using some of the Stations to motivate others to explore both.



Sophia Vanderhuff
Frederick, MD

Sustainable Homes for Future Fowl

Sophia worked with volunteers to update bird houses located around a local elementary and middle school, and educated her community on the positive impact birds have on our environment, especially when it comes to combating invasive species.



Ashlynn Vilcheck
Owings, MD

Dance for Confidence

Eesha wanted to assist special needs children in elementary school who had challenges with self-confidence. She held dance classes for students between third and sixth grades with Autism and/or ADHD. During each class, Eesha walked the students through a series of confidence-boosting activities, focusing on the dance styles of jazz, hip hop, and freestyle.



Eesha Viswanathan
Herndon, VA

Clear The Air: The Risks of Underage Smoking

Nareen hosted educational and interactive workshops to address underage smoking among teenagers in Maryland. The project focused on the health risks from smoking and vaping, including the short and long-term effects. She discussed the role of peer pressure, stress, and social events in influencing teenagers' decisions to smoke. An interactive presentation, activities, and discussions encouraged participants to reflect on their choices and consider healthier alternatives.



Nareen Vo
Silver Spring, MD

On Pointe

Jasmine expanded access to ballet education for students in underserved areas. She led a series of workshops at an after-school program focusing on proper technique, ballet vocabulary, and overall dancer wellness. Through these sessions, the students developed foundational skills and had the opportunity to showcase their progress, building their confidence and self-expression.



Jasmine Walker
Silver Spring, MD

The Madison High School Compost Program

Ramsey created a composting program at her high school. She coordinated with a local composting company to pick up the compost bins and convert the materials to compost. To date, through Ramsey's program, over 4,000 pounds of food waste has been diverted from the landfill and turned into compost.



Ramsey Warner
Vienna, VA



Learn About Jewish Health

Hannah created a website and curriculum about health concerns that specifically relate to people of Jewish Ashkenazi descent. This includes diseases such as Tay Sachs, Crohn's Disease, and a higher risk of certain cancers. The curriculum can be completed over the course of one to three days and includes presentations with information, games for review, and an optional project for students to complete.

Hannah Warschaw
Springfield, VA



Athlete's Mental Health Project

Dylan reduced the stigma of mental health in student-athlete communities by creating a Morgan's Message club at her school. This club coordinates dedication games with school sports teams, and holds monthly meetings with speakers and wellness workshops. The club led a field day for younger girls, which informed them how to help friends who could be struggling, keep themselves healthy, and be the teammate they would want to have.

Dylan Weiss
Bethesda, MD

Development of Theragame: A Mobile App for Therapy Patients

Raley created Theragame, which gamifies the time between therapy appointments by using a bingo board and in-game rewards, making it easier for users to stay committed to their mental health journey. This app was developed to support the mental health of cancer patients in consultation with professionals, including licensed therapists. It is currently available on GitHub and will soon be on the app store.



Raley Wilkin
Bethesda, MD

Glitter Girls Gala

The Glitter Girls Gala offered young girls ages 7-12 the opportunity to learn and explore their self-confidence and self-love through a two-week seminar. The girls learned how to confidently step into a room, avoid negative influences, love themselves, and be a positive influence of a "Glitter Girl" for others.



Alexxis White
Clinton, MD

Generational Connect

Azra established an organization to combat depression in senior centers and better connect the community through multi-generational art shows.



Azra Williams
Bethesda, MD

Glow On: A Tween's Guide to Skin Care

Zekiah hosted a workshop/social media account educating girls ages 10-13 on how to properly identify skin care products and ingredients based on their skin type, how to budget for skin care products, and how to reinforce habits to maintain healthy skin.



Zekiah Wilson
Fort Washington, MD

Recykenneling: Making the Vet More Environmentally Friendly

By creating posters, informational guides, and giving presentations, Eileen spread awareness of the lack of recycling in local animal hospitals and encouraged change. She brought recycling services to the Hayfield Animal Hospital through this project.



Eileen Wood
Alexandria, VA

Dental Hygiene

Victoria addressed the lack of dental hygiene supplies and information for underserved community members. She provided over 500 dental hygiene kits and information packets in English and Spanish to underserved communities, partnering with local organizations like the Katherine Hanley Family Shelter, Lorton Community Center, and ECHO Donation Center, to improve access and awareness of oral health resources.



Victoria Wood
Fairfax, VA



Olivia Worek
Oakton, VA

Spreading Animal Shelter Awareness

Olivia spread awareness about how to help animal shelters, teaching people who may not know a lot about animal shelters many ways to help. She put up fliers, created an Instagram account to share tips about how to help shelter animals, hosted a workshop for kids in her community, took pictures at an animal shelter and adoption event, and collaborated with many different animal shelters.



Jennifer Wright
Ashburn, VA

Fishing at Hanson Park

Jennifer created a youth fishing education program at Hal and Berni Hanson Park. Her goal was to interest more children in fishing and the outdoors, and to inspire them to care more about their impact on the environment and learn how climate issues affect them. She led a workshop for teen volunteers to build fishing line disposal stations and coordinated teen-led workshops across different age groups to test the program. She presented the program to Hanson Park staff.



Yenna Yesawich
Sterling, VA

The Encore Initiative: An Intergenerational Music Program

Yenna created the Encore Initiative, a sustainable intergenerational music program connecting student musicians with residents in senior living communities to address social isolation and loneliness. Yenna led recruitment, coordinated performances, and developed a structure that emphasizes both music and post-performance conversation, fostering deeper social connection.



Sophia Zachary
Washington, D.C.

Dialogues vs. Monologues for Mutual Understanding

Sophia aimed to equip pre-teens with emotional education skills to handle complex topics, foster empathy, critical thinking skills, and respectful dialogue. Through workshops and mock discussions, students practiced constructive communication and learned strategies for thoughtful, respectful conversations.



Dylan Zimmerman
Bethesda, MD

All About The Girls

Dylan educated youth on periods and mental health through a school club and workshops, and worked to improve women's safety at public facilities.

In Memoriam

Malaiki Nkafu - Silver Spring, MD



Girls Tutela: Self-Defense For Middle School Girls

Malaiki designed a self-defense workshop for middle school girls to empower them with confidence as they move around with more independence.

"Malaiki was our friend and our Girl Scout sister and always brought energy and laughter to our troop. Her love of helping people will continue to be felt for years to come. We will always carry some of her joy with us."

-Troop 1165

Gold Award Mentors

In the heart of the Girl Scouts Nation's Capital community, a devoted team of mentors guides teen Girl Scouts toward earning the prestigious Gold Award. They offer personalized support to refine project proposals, fostering innovation and confidence through workshops and feedback sessions. Their dedication elevates the Gold Award process, empowering Girl Scouts to make meaningful contributions to their communities. As pillars of support, these mentors champion the success of Gold Award Girl Scouts, nurturing their aspirations and guiding them toward impactful leadership. Their invaluable contributions are essential in empowering youth to create positive change and leave a lasting impact on the world.

Lucy Anderson
Bridget Arnold
Shukla Biswas
Jennifer Blackwell
Novella
Bonds-Anderson
Heather Collick
Lisa Collins
Camille Dannunzio
Szymczak
Shar Caesar Douglas
Carin Gendell

Sharon Gibson
Dale Glass
Dela Grant
Sue Hansen
Christine Hicks
Stuthi Iyer
Carol Jacobson
Brian Kearney
Sue Kohn
Eileen Kurucz
Torre Lavelle
Laura Lawless

Maureen Mallette
Jen Manguera
Christine McNamee-
Mahaffey
Melodi McNeil
Amy Mitchem
Tyshena Mongal
Stanley Myles
Catherine "Catie"
Palmer
William Perry
Catherine Romano

Diane Shannon
Paige Sherman
Marvena Simmonds
Jennifer Topscher
Diane Traweek
Sara Tyler
Mandi Wedin
Rebecca Wilson
Theresa Ziemba

Gold Award Scholarship Panel

Morlon Bell-Izzard
Charlotte Hart
Denise Hart

Marguerete Luter
Susan Moser
Janet Osborne

Karen Penn
Kate Perrin
Joanna Pratt

Mary Gay Sprague
Stephanie
Tsacoumis



Ethel G. Harvey President's Award

The President's Award in Honor of Ethel G. Harvey is the only Girl Scouts Nation's Capital honorary award for youth. It honors Ethel G. Harvey, who served as the president of Girl Scouts Nation's Capital from 1972–1978. The award is unique in that selection is made by youth, who choose from among nominees the Girl Scout they feel best exemplifies the criteria.

Congratulations to the 2026 Ethel G. Harvey President's Award recipients!



Ruth Cunningham



Averyn Duffin



Elianna Holod



Sarah Roelke

Gold Award Scholarship Opportunities 2026

Many colleges and universities offer scholarships to Girl Scouts who have earned the Gold Award, recognizing the leadership skills the award requires.

Our Council offers Gold Award scholarships to graduating high school seniors valued at \$1,000 each to attend the college of their choice. The Gold Award Scholarship Panel is composed of members of the business community with a commitment to Girl Scouting. The Panel reviewed written applications and identified semifinalists to be interviewed at the Council office. Based on the interviews, committee members selected scholarship recipients. Our Council also offers a Young Woman of Distinction award to a Gold Award recipient, valued at \$2,000.

The Council's scholarships for Gold Award recipients are funded through generous gifts from Sarah Phillips, a lifetime Girl Scout volunteer, in support of the Sarah and Lawrence Phillips Scholarships; a gift from an anonymous donor in honor of Marilyn Carr; a gift from Elizabeth Sarah Gere in memory of Gold Award Girl Scout Rachel Deitch; and a Shenandoah Region endowment from lifetime Girl Scouts Eva L. Woolridge and Lynne Seibert-Steptoe.



The Silver Trefoil Award is unique to Girl Scouts Nation's Capital. This award originated in the 1970s as the Little Flower Award in memory of Senior Girl Scout Linda Curtis. Today, the award honors Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors who make the world a better place through service in three communities: the Girl Scout community, the national community, and the global community.

Congratulations to the following Silver Trefoil Award Girl Scouts:

Adele Abouchar	Brienne Ellwood	Christie Keiser
Bianca Aguirre	Caeli Ellwood	Nina Kemp
Harshini Amarnath	Kyra Ellwood	Katie Kenney
Susan Andera	Victoria Fantle	Palak Khilnani
Katelyn Armstrong	Luisa Farole	Contessa Kiefel
Navya Arora	Aliyah Fischer	Mayme Killeen
Yordanos Assefa	Bella Francisco	Talia Knutsen
Tahiya Avendano	Luella Funk	Morgan Koerwitz
Anna Balbuena	Anna Galysh	Kendall Kovarik
Elizabeth Balogh	Sharvi Gandhi	Courtney Kramer
Avani Tara Bansal	Tewobsta Gebretsadik	Meera Kumar
Radhika Bhatnagar	Peyton Gnage	Divya Laddha
Isabella Biglete	Charlotte Goodfriend	Ava LaFond
Eden Bishop	Margaret Gordon	Brianna Le
Abigail Bouse	Grace Gould	Nicolette Le
Anna Brodsky	Ada Greene	Caroline Lee
Josephine Brunn Lake	Lily Grod-Tisza	Julia Leonard
Charlotte Buntoro	Lila Grosko	Sarah Littlejohn
Leah Burke	Elizabeth Grotsky	Brielle Long
Kathryn Campillo	Kajsa Guhr	Chloe Lyon
Makayla Carswell	Avishi Gupta	Helen Maag
Maliah Cash	Caleigh Hall	Madeline Marks
Krystal Charters	Alison Hardman	Kimberly Marquin Lucas
Manya Cherukupalli	Madison Harlow	Megan Marr
Sydney Collick	Grace Heleniak	Charlotte Marshall
Adelle Cook	Sarina Heppner	Zoe Mattix
Aurora Copeland	Abigail Hrouda	Alannah McCleerey
Jules Costello	Morgan Hueber	Avery McCusker
Niya Countiss	Katie Huynh	Mariella McElhenny
Madz Cramer	Sanjana Jacob	Hannah McGuiggan
Ziona Daniel	Lily Jacoby	Kendra McKinney
Evelyn DeForest	Natalie Jones	Elise Mengason
Marianna Drapas	Margaret Jones	Olivia Meyers
Maanya Duppati	Sophie Jumbercotta	Sophia Milausnic
Samantha Eldred	Evelyn Kanick	Shanaiya Miller
Ruth Eliot	Nadia Karell	Brooke Miller



Khloe Miller
Brigid Miners
Natasha Mistry
Ryleigh Mitchell
Janessa Mortenson
Adrienne Moseley
Katharine Myshrall
Mia Nash
Elizabeth Neal
Fiona Nellis
Brianna Nelson
Lien Nguyen
Maylani-Cassandra
Nguyen
Malaiki Nkafu
Caitlin Owlett
Viola Pande
Aymen Pathan
Chaylen Patty
Claire Pettay
Natalie Petty
Alaina Plasmier
Lyla Price

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Vireshma Rampersad
Zoey Rees
Sara Reinsel
Kally Renfrew
Kelsey Richards
Abigail Robinson
Isabella Roselle
Julia Ross
Paige Rowland
Virginia Rowland
Rachel Rubinstein
Vanessa Schroeder
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Zehava Shepard
Rachel Sigler
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Twisha Sinha
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Natalia Torres
Victoria Townsend
Cassidy Turpen
Grace Tyrell
Madelyn Van
Kaitlyn Van
Bella Van Ert
Peyton Virts
Lana Vu
Lorelei Wagner
Jenna Wathen
Elizabeth Wells
Azra Williams
Katelyn Yang
Syndey Yerra
Sabrina Yimer
Hannah Yonas





The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout Cadette can achieve. This award recognizes youth who participated in a range of Take Action projects benefiting their communities. Through their projects, the Girl Scouts listed in this yearbook learned leadership and organizational skills, explored potential career paths, and improved their neighborhoods.

Congratulations to the following Silver Award Girl Scouts:

Marly Abell	Ella Kennedy Beatty	Grace Carry
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Maya Adamyan	Jill Belisle	Sophia Casanova Mackay
Zainab Adnan	Kylie Benitez-Pergola	Elena Casassa
Andrea Aguilar Diaz	Clara Bennett	Brianna Casillas
Elizabeth Ahl	Katie Bennett	Eleanor Chambers
Blake Ahn	Anna Bentz	Kamila Chambers
Asiyah Ahsan	Shelby Best	Honora Chaplin
Damilola Aki	Emma Bevington	Noor Chaudry
Zara Ali	Ava Bishop	Olivia Chavez
Zahro Alim	Abby Blackman	Bella Chen
Sresta Allam	Kylie Blickenstaff	Vrinda Chilukamarri
Carly Amato	Lucy Bodani	Riya Chitla
Veronica Amaya-Rodriguez	Margaret Bory	Ariel Cho
Audrey Anderson	Keira Bowyer	Pooja Chokshi
Claire Anderson	Olivia Brelsford	Luciana Cifuentes
Mira Anderson	Gwynnaeth Brennan	Alexandra Clark
Amy Andreas	Liv Brock	Bella Clopton
Maya Antoniuk	Gwyneth Brown	Dana Colberg
Sofia Araus	Evelyn Bryan	Charlotte Cole
Eleanor Arozqueta	Abigail "Abbie" Bryson	Julia Collick
Olivia Ashley	Katie Bubb	Brooke Collins
Jay Atchley	Leila Buckel	Emily Connell
Catharine Atkinson	Ava Buckner	Hannah Cooper
Anjana Atre	Megan Burcham	Adalyn Couchman
Eili Avendano	Charlotte Burlette	Adriana Cousins
Samantha Avery	Livvie Butkus	Paige Cowell
Naima Ayers	Brigid Cahill	Nirvanna Crance
Adama Ba	Julia Caldwell	Audrey Crane
Nora Bakhshi	Kylie Calmbacher	Sofia Crigna
Tanya Bakiaraj	Melanie Camara	Sydney Cutchin
Anvita Balachander	Emily Campana	Caroline Czzowitz
Vy Kha Banh	Claire Carlson	Laila Daghes
Gillian Banker	Elisabeth Carr	Imani Dakes-Good
Naomi Barruel	Skylar Carroll	Genevieve Dalton



Madison Dalton
Margaret Daly
Katie Damsky
Elizabeth Dean
Alexa Deems
Gabrielle Delacourt
Jessica Delgadillo
Emery Ann DeMartino
Meadow DeMille
Deborah Devasahayam
Ellie Devorsetz
Natalie Dickinson
Sydney Dietrich
Michelle Anais Djakeu
Madaline Dodge
Juliet Donovan
Ryleigh Dowdy
Melena Duckett
Cassandra Duffy
Justus Edwards
Alessandra Epps
Penelope Erwin
Siena Esposito
Bryce Ewald
Audrey Farquharson
Maevyn Farrell
Autumn Farris
Dottie Fee
Sophia Figueredo
Kaelan Fincham
Zoe Font
Charlotte Fraley
Allison Frangie
Amelia Fuster
Addison Galla
Esther Galla
Kariangelys Garces
Stella Rae Gardner
Savannah Garvin
Norah Gavin
Amen Gebrtsadik
Toby Gerstein
Jessie Gibson
Elizabeth Gilchrest

Kayra Gin
Avni Giri
Olivia Gloyd
Madelynn Godfrey
Saanvi Goel
Norrie Goggins
Molly Goldsborough
Charlotte Goldwater
Shantany Gonzales
Saara Gosar
Nikeeta Graybill
Donna Greanias
Hannah Skye Grove
Sabrina Grunwald
Aarohi Gupta
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Claire Hamilton
Elise Hamilton
Hannah Han
Mackenzie Hann
Elisabeth Hanson
Ashalina Haque
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Lillian Eleanor
“Elle” Harris
Zainab Hatif
Cora Haye
Denise Haynes
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Vivienne Hengst
Stella Herda
Esperanza Hernandez-Giblin
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de Casanove
Isla-Rose Humphrey
Asmaa Husain
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Sadia Hussain
Cora Hutton
Natalie Huynh
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The Girl Scout Promise Fund is our commitment to ensure that everyone who wants to be a Girl Scout can be.

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