



Girl Scouts®

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc.
www.girlscoutshh.org

NEWS

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FOR RELEASE: immediately

GOLD AWARD LUNCHEON TO RECOGNIZE RECIPIENTS OF HIGHEST GIRL SCOUT HONOR

Pleasantville, NY — One hundred and six girls, ages 14 to 18, from throughout the seven counties of the lower Hudson River valley who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest girl recognition in Girl Scouting, since last September, will be honored at Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc.'s **Gold Award Luncheon**, Sunday, March 8, at 2 p.m. at the Westchester Marriott Hotel, 670 White Plains Road, Tarrytown.

The ceremony will also recognize any Girl Scout alumnae in attendance who have earned the highest leadership award — Golden Eaglet, Golden Eagle, First Class, Curved Bar, or Girl Scout Gold Award — since the establishment of this most prestigious honor in 1916.

Anyone wishing to attend the ceremony should contact Ann Marie Imbriale at (914) 747-3080, ext. 239. The fee is \$32.

The Girl Scout Gold Award involves more than a year of work including, among other requirements, a minimum of 30 hours in a leadership role, 40 hours of career exploration, and a minimum of 65 hours of work on a major project that will have a long-term impact on the girl's community. Examples of this year's Girl Scout Gold Award projects range from recording children's books onto CDs and creating a 1,000-book Assyrian-American library to painting and refurbishing a room at a local Humane Society and cleaning 120 headstones in the town cemetery.

Some directed their efforts towards younger girls, helping them cope with the dilemmas faced in middle school or educating them on topics such as heart disease, eating disorders, and a healthy body image. Two projects had far-reaching international impact. One involved educating students in three schools in Kyrgyzstan about recycling and other issues, and the other supported the refurbishment of two high school classrooms in the Dominican Republic.

The Girl Scout Gold Award has a long history. It became the highest award in Girl Scouting in 1980, originally established in 1916 as The Golden Eaglet of Merit. Only four years after the founding of Girl Scouts of the USA, this marked the beginning of a tradition of using prestigious awards to recognize girls who make a difference in their communities and in their own lives. From 1919 to 1938, the award was known as the Golden Eagle and was renamed

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First Class from 1938 to 1940. In the years 1940 to 1963 it was known as the Curved Bar Award and from 1963 to 1980 it was again known as First Class. To achieve First Class meant that a girl was an “all around” person with some skills in many fields and proficiency in one.

Nationwide, only four of every 100 girls, in grades 10-12, is a Girl Scout. Of these, only 5.4% ever complete the Girl Scout Gold Award. The award is recognized as an indication of character and community service by scholarship grantors, college and university admissions offices, and fraternal organizations honoring outstanding teenagers.

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson serves 34,000 girls and 15,000 adult volunteers throughout seven counties in southeastern New York State: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester. Its central administrative office is in Pleasantville, with regional offices in Middletown, New City, Pleasantville, and Poughkeepsie.

Founded in Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) strives to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. Accordingly, GSUSA continues to be the world’s pre-eminent organization for, and leading authority on, girls, with a membership of more than 3.7 million girls and adults.

For information about joining, volunteering, or making a donation to Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc., contact 914.747.3080 or visit www.girlscoutshh.org.