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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thirty-Five Girl Scouts from Westchester County Earn Gold Award, the Highest Award in Girl Scouting

Montgomery, NY (June 15, 2023) – Thirty-Five Girl Scouts from Westchester County, members of Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc. council, earned the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest national award a Girl Scout can earn. Their awards were presented during an ceremony and celebration June 3, 2023 at Camp Addisone Boyce in Tomkins Cove, NY.

“It is my honor and privilege to...celebrate the amazing accomplishments of these young women,” said Helen Wronski, Interim CEO of Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc. “Those who have earned their Gold Award have embraced the Girl Scout Promise and Law and have put these words into action. They are strong, courageous, and accomplished young women who are the heroes of today and the future leaders of tomorrow.”

According to the Girl Scout Research Institute’s (GSRI) report, *The Power of the Girl Scout Gold Award: Excellence in Leadership and Life*, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients receive greater lifetime benefits than their peers with regard to positive sense of self, life satisfaction, leadership, life success, community service, and civic engagement thanks to their experience in Girl Scouting.

When compared to non-Girl Scout alumnae, over ninety percent of Girl Scouts not only attributed their success in life to Girl Scouts, but they also said they could not have had access to the same experiences anywhere else.

This year’s class of Gold Award Girl Scouts identified projects in their communities and created lasting and sustainable solutions to make them a better place. Projects focused on the keeping the Hudson River clean, addressing mental health in teens, providing resources for LGBTQ+ youth, support for those experiencing financial hardships, sensory programs, and more.

The following Gold Award Girl Scouts have made a lasting mark on their communities in Westchester County:

Ashley Alexander, Lakeland East – The Impact of Representation

Kristen Alleva, West Lakeland – Keep Movin’ Keep Groovin’
Ella Birenkrant, West Lakeland – Keeping the Hudson River Clean
Leila Brady, Pelham – High School Survival Guide
Sara Bufi, West Lakeland – High School Survival Guide

(more)

-Page 2-

Claire Caltabiano, Mount Vernon – LGBTQ+ Resource Guide: Advice from WJCS Center Lane and Westchester County Youth
Rose Collins, Pleasantville – The Pen Pal Project: Connecting Senior Citizens and Children
Grace Condon, Pelham – Bringing Relief to Memory Care Patients
Amanda Costas, North Salem – Fresh Air Fun
Melanie Cotrone, North Salem – Coping Cuddles
Paige Cronin, Somers – All the Places STEM Can Lead You
Ella Dundas, Pleasantville - Reducing the Trash Toll: Environmentally Responsible Consumerism at the Pleasantville Farmers Market
Shannon Gallaher, Larchmont/Mamaroneck - Student Centered Sensory Garden
Sophia Garcia, Scarsdale/Edgemont - Building Survival Kits for the Homeless
Kathleen Geraghty, Mount Pleasant – File of Life
Zoe Gopoian, White Plains – Christmas For All
Bee Herbstman, Hastings on Hudson – Education Through Song
Kelly Hyland, Town of Eastchester – Maker Space with Kelly
Arianna Jones, Mount Vernon – School Garden at the Pennington School
Michelle Kasulka, Chappaqua – Grow 2 Garden
Mila Kinnear, New Rochelle – HOPE Cookbook
Julia Maloney, North Salem – Prom 4 Everyone
Kaydi McInerney, West Lakeland – Soothing the Soul with Art
Isabella Mehmel, Mount Pleasant – Reading on the Go
Miranda Miller, Pleasantville – A Friend in S.T.E.A.M.
Julia Ognibene, Town of Eastchester – A hoppy Horse is a Healing Horse
Jane Olszewski, Mount Pleasant – High School Prop Closet Updated to Reduce Waste and Spending
Ava Peters, Chappaqua – Pioneering Public Outreach for New Castle Conservation Board
Soraya Rahni, Chappaqua – Remodel 4 Reason
Stella Sanko, Larchmont/Mamaroneck – Building a Bird Friendly Community
Alanna Sheehan, Mount Vernon – Improve Efficiency at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Food Pantry
Emily Sorrentino, West Lakeland – Organizing with Purpose
Aidan Summer, Katonah/Lewisboro – Summer Sunshine
Erin Weitzman, Pleasantville – Project Paint
Lydia Wilke-Olsen, Somers – Inspiring Young Women to STEM

About the Girl Scout Gold Award

Since 1916, Girl Scouts have been making meaningful, sustainable change in their communities and around the world. The Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl

Scout can earn, acknowledges the power behind each recipient's dedication to not only powering and bettering herself but also to making the world a better place for others. These young women are courageous leaders and visionary change makers. *They are our future, and it looks bright!*

(more)

- Page 3 -

About Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson serves more than *14,000 girls and 9,000* adult members in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester Counties. For more information, please visit www.girlscoutshh.org.

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