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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Five Girl Scouts from Orange County Earn Gold Award, the Highest Award in Girl Scouting**

Montgomery, NY (June 12, 2023) – Five Girl Scouts from Orange 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 environment, preparing students for life after graduation, and supporting victims of sexual assault.

(more)

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

**Madison Brown, Washingtonville – Alum Night**  
**Edelen MacRae, Cornwall – Ecosystems of the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum**  
**Stefanie Sommer, Greenwood Lake – Busy Bags**  
**Elizabeth Verboys, Warwick – Wisdom Wings**  
**Madeline Williams, Monroe Woodbury – Helping Hippotherapy**

**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!*

**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](http://www.girlscoutshh.org).

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