

Volunteer Awards and Recognition

Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA



Updated 9/1/2024

For further information or questions, please contact Member Services at membershipservices@gsdpa.org

Volunteer Awards and Recognition Overview

Girl Scout volunteers leave a lasting, positive impact on the girls they serve, and we want to celebrate all they do! As girls, parents, friends, and fellow volunteers, you get to experience the day-to-day wonderfulness of our GSHPA volunteers from the grand gestures to the long hours, all the way down to the small, special moments he/she shares with a Girl Scout.

- Formal adult awards are available to recognize exemplary service of adult Girl Scouts who go above and beyond the expectations of an individual's volunteer position.
- Volunteers, girl members, and/or their families may nominate someone for an award.

Service Unit Volunteer Excellence Awards

Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania has developed the Volunteer Excellence Awards that can be utilized by Service Units to recognize volunteers who step up and stand out! The Volunteer Excellence Awards target specific components of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and the volunteer experience to recognize exemplary volunteers. The frequency and method of presenting these awards can be at the discretion of each Service Unit. New for 2024, Service Unit Certificate of Appreciation. This award was moved to the Service Unit level to ensure that all volunteers can nominate other volunteers throughout the year.

Service Unit Volunteer Excellence Awards include:

- Outdoor Champion
- Rising Star
- Recruitment Pro
- Leader Among Leaders
- Meaningful Mentor
- Girl Empowerment
- Troop of Distinction
- Reaching Higher
- Service Unit Certificate of Appreciation

Council Level and GSUSA Awards

Council recognitions are formal awards, presented annually to volunteers for exemplary service in Girl Scouting. Both GSHPA and GSUSA approved awards recognize the outstanding accomplishments of volunteers and groups who have gone above and beyond what is expected.

Council Level Awards include:

- Juliette's Pearls
- Heart of PA

GSUSA Awards include:

- Volunteer of Excellence
- Appreciation Pin
- Honor Pin
- Thanks Badge
- Thanks II Badge

Awards Description and Criteria

Service Unit Volunteer Excellence Awards	
Outdoor Champion	This volunteer supports their Girl Scouts and/or fellow volunteers in embracing exciting opportunities and activities in an outdoor setting such as a camp or nature center. They may host an encampment, develop an outdoor program, or even mentor other volunteers in outdoor opportunities.
Rising Star	First or second year leader who made a splash! Might be someone who has embraced training opportunities, has been super engaged at the Service Unit level, often says YES to opportunities to help, and/or participate, etc.
Recruitment Pro	This is awarded to a volunteer or a troop who is committed to GSHPA recruitment efforts, Service Unit recruitment efforts, and the promotion of Girl Scouting in their communities. They find ways to tell the Girl Scout story whenever possible and seek out promotional opportunities.
Leader Among Leaders	Troop leaders who continually exemplify the Girl Scout Promise and Law. They treat their fellow leaders with respect, kindness, and compassion. They help to foster an open and welcoming Service Unit environment, and they offer extra help to new leaders who need guidance.
Meaningful Mentor	This award is given to a volunteer who is an exceptional mentor to girls. This volunteer not only promotes the Girl Scout Leadership Experience but serves as a role model and someone for their girls to look up to. This volunteer provides girls with new and meaningful opportunities and experiences.
Girl Empowerment	This leader empowers their girls to take the lead of their Girl Scout experience. Places an emphasis on the girl-led portion of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.
Troop of Distinction	This troop is exemplifying leadership and service by giving back to others in their community through take action and service projects
Reaching Higher	This leader has expert knowledge on the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. They promote higher awards in their troop or Service Unit. They encourage their girls to lead their projects, while supporting them along the way. They also exemplify the principles of the higher award model.
Service Unit Certificate of Appreciation	This award acknowledges volunteers for their dedication to Girl Scouts. Service Units can present this award throughout the year as a thank you to volunteers.

Awards Description and Criteria

Award	Description	Nomination	Letter(s) of Endorsement
Council Level Awards			
Juliette's Pearls	Awarded to volunteers actively giving outstanding service to <u>one or more Service Units or groups for an extended period of time</u> . This award is a cumulative award, with different colored pearls, focused in service areas that impact the Girl Scout Mission and the GSHPA Strategic Plan.	1	
Heart of PA	Awarded to volunteers actively giving outstanding service that benefits the <u>entire council</u> .	1	
GSUSA Awards			
Volunteer of Excellence	The Volunteer of Excellence recognizes volunteers who have contributed outstanding service in support of mission-delivery to girl and adult members at a <u>troop level</u> .	1	1
Appreciation Pin	The Appreciation Pin recognizes an active Girl Scout volunteer's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. This service, which has had a measurable impact on <u>one service unit</u> , helps reach and surpass the mission-delivery goals of the area.	1	2
Honor Pin	The Honor Pin recognizes an active Girl Scout volunteer's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, which has had measurable impact on <u>two or more service units</u> , allowing GSHPA to reach and surpass its mission-delivery goals.	1	One from each Service Unit
Thanks Badge	The Thanks Badge honors an active Girl Scout volunteer whose ongoing commitment, leadership, and service have had an exceptional, measurable impact on meeting the mission-delivery goals and priorities of GSHPA or the <u>entire Girl Scout Movement</u> .	1	3
Thanks II Badge	The Thanks Badge II recognizes a <u>previous Thanks Badge recipient</u> who has continued to provide exemplary service in a leadership role significantly above and beyond the call of duty, resulting in a measurable impact that benefits the <u>entire Girl Scout Movement</u> .	1	3

Nomination Process and Timeline

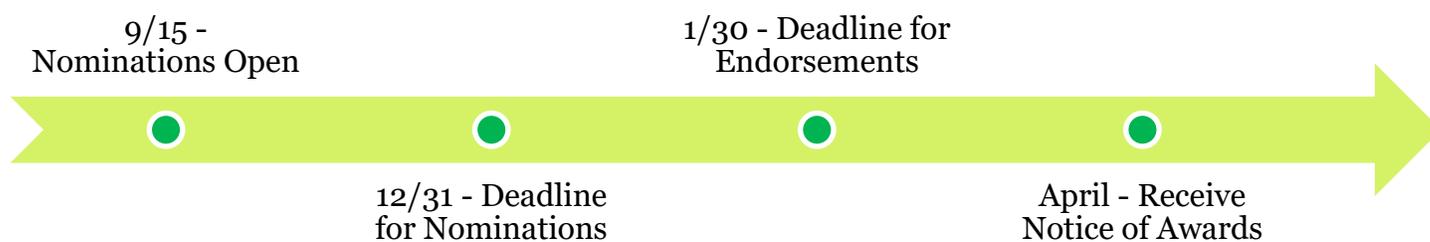
Service Unit Volunteer Excellence Awards can be given to volunteers by volunteers and does not need an official nomination completed.

Each Council Level Award and GSUSA Award requires a completed Nomination Form and Letter(s) of Endorsement (varies from one to three Letters of Endorsement depending on the award). The nominator who completed the Nomination Form will recommend the people to complete Letter(s) of Endorsement and provide contact information to council.

Committee information

Volunteer Awards Committee is comprised of volunteers who review submissions for all formal awards, Council Level and GSUSA. All submissions that are complete, submitted on time, and fulfill the requirements of the award are put forth for approval by the Board of Directors.

Timeline



1. September 15 – Nominations open on gshpa.org. Nominators will complete [Nomination Form](#) with recommendations for others to complete the Letter(s) of Endorsement.
2. December 31 – Deadline for all nominations is due. No other nominations will be accepted.
3. Council Staff will send the recommended others to complete the [Letter\(s\) of Endorsement](#). All Letter(s) of Endorsement are due by January 30.
4. Nominees who meet the criteria of the award(s) will be presented to the Volunteer Awards Committee in March for approval to submit to the Board of Directors.
5. Nominators will be notified of awards by Council in April. Nominees will be announced during the Annual meeting in April.

The period for this nomination term is for services performed from
October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024.

Nominations must be received by 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2024.

Who Can Nominate and Be Nominated?

Who can nominate a volunteer for an award?

- The person that submits the nomination does not have to be a registered member. Anyone can recognize the important Girl Scouts in their life through these awards, including (but not limited to): a troop parent, girl, or community partner.

Who can be nominated for an award?

- All Awards require the individual being nominated to be a registered GSUSA member and be in good standing. Refer to each award for additional criteria.

Suggested Strong Statements for Nominations and/or Letter(s) of Endorsement.

STATEMENT	THINK ABOUT THIS	STRONGER STATEMENT
“She has been a leader for a long time and is committed to girls.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many years? • What grade levels has she worked with? • What has she done that shows her commitment to girls? 	“For eight years, she led a multi-level troop of both Girl Scout Brownies and Juniors. In those eight years she has welcomed girls from three different schools. Her philosophy is “girls need Girl Scouts, all the girls from second to fifth grade are welcomed in the Troop.”
“He is a great leader.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of leadership qualities has he exhibited with the girls? • What makes him stand out? 	“He believes in girl-led and continuously brings leadership opportunities to girls. Each of the girls in his troop have an opportunity to be a leader throughout the year. Each girl takes a month being responsible for leading the troop meeting, including organizing all aspects. The girls learn how to plan, speak in front of others, create an agenda, and lead a meeting.”
“She always goes above and beyond.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How? Be specific. • Tell a story that shows how she has gone above and beyond. 	“Her troop was working on their Bronze Award. She recognized that she did not have all the skills and knowledge to guide the girls successfully through all the details. She recruited parents, Community volunteers, leaders, and several local businesses from our community at large - all helping the girls work through the details of their Bronze Award Take Action Project. “

Please note: the following information about the nominee should be included in each nomination.

- How long have you known the Nominee?
- In what capacity have you known the Nominee?
- Description of the Girl Scout activities in which you observed or collaborated with the Nominee.
- Description of Nominee’s most significant contributions to Girl Scouts.