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Adult Recognitions

Introduction

Girl Scout volunteers give their time, talents, and enthusiasm to help girls grow. By offering appreciation, we acknowledge those whose contributions exceed our expectations. Whether in the form of a simple thank you note or a formal award for years of faithful service, any recognition tells a volunteer that their hard work is noticed and appreciated.

Ice Breaker

Materials needed:
-Paper
-Hat/bowl
-Pens
-Index cards, sticky notes, blank greeting cards

Put all attendee's names in a bowl or hat. Each attendee draws a name and write a quick, but heartfelt note of appreciation to that person. Volunteers can take turns reading aloud if they wish.

Discover and Connect

- Review awards available, including National, Council, and any Service Unit Award, and troop awards
- Nominations are done online through the digital nomination form
- A volunteer committee reviews the submissions and approves nominations, then notifies the nominator.
- Awards are presented at the Volunteer Appreciation Event in April.
- Quality of accomplishments (with direct or indirect impact on girls), not length of service, is the primary factor in granting awards.
- Recognize great local leaders with service unit awards presented at a service unit event and recognize family members at troop meetings or events.
- Anyone can nominate and endorse someone. It does not need to come from the Service Unit Recognitions Coordinator
- Provide Effective Recommendations- Answers must be specific- the more specific the better. Answers also need to be about the Girl Scout work they've done, not all the other things they may also do outside of the Girl Scouts. Being specific about the work nominees do for Girl Scouts helps to ensure the award nomination is approved. Speak to the specific award criteria. Endorsers should keep in mind that those reading the letter will not know the nominee.
- Encourage attendance at the council's annual recognition celebration—this year's event will be in the Upstate on April 24. It will be a Hollywood glamour theme. Registration links will be available in early February.

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Girl Scouts Adult Awards Fact Sheet

Do you know a Girl Scout volunteer who deserves an adult recognition? Which adult award is appropriate?

Does this volunteer give service exclusively at the troop level?

YES → **Volunteer of Excellence Award**

Volunteer does MORE

Does this volunteer give service beyond the troop level but still within a single service unit?

YES → **Appreciation Pin**

Volunteer does MORE

Does this volunteer give service to two or more service units?

YES → **Honor Pin**

Volunteer does MORE

Does this volunteer give outstanding service that benefits the total council or Girl Scout Movement?

YES → **Thanks Badge I**

Volunteer has Thanks Badge I

Volunteer has received the Thanks Badge I and continues to give outstanding service that benefits the total council or Girl Scout Movement?

YES → **Thanks Badge II**

Is the award for a Team or Group?

YES → **The President's Award**

The **Volunteer of Excellence** offers service units an opportunity to recognize volunteers who have contributed outstanding service in support of mission delivery to girl and adult members at a troop level.

- The nominee is an active, registered Girl Scout volunteer who has successfully completed a term of service and all requirements for the role beyond expectations.
- The nominee actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behavior.
- *Requires a Nomination Form and two letters of endorsement.*

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 one service unit or geographic area of service, helps reach and surpass the mission-delivery goals of the area.

- The nominee is an active, registered Girl Scout volunteer whose service is above and beyond the expectations for the position held.
- The nominee has made an impact on one geographic area within the council's jurisdiction.
- *Requires a Nomination Form and two letters of endorsement.*

The **Honor Pin** recognizes a registered Girl Scout volunteer's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. which has had measurable impact on two or more service units or geographic areas of service, allowing the council to reach and surpass its mission-delivery goals.

- The nominee is an active, registered Girl Scout volunteer whose service is above and beyond the expectations for the position(s) held.
- The nominee has made an impact on two or more geographic areas within the council's jurisdiction.
- *Requires a Nomination Form and three letters of endorsement.*

The **Thanks Badge** is the highest honor in Girl Scouts. It honors a registered adult Girl Scout whose ongoing commitment, leadership and service have had an exceptional, measurable impact on meeting the mission-delivery goals and priorities of the entire council or entire Girl Scout Movement.

- The nominee is an active, registered Girl Scout volunteer.
- The outstanding service performed by the nominee resulted in outcomes that benefited the total council or the entire Girl Scout organization and is so significantly above and beyond the call of duty that no other award would be appropriate.
- This award is based on taking a leadership role during the previous four years.
- *Requires a Nomination Form and four letters of endorsement.*

The **Thanks Badge II** recognizes a previous Thanks Badge award recipient 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 entire Girl Scout Movement.

- The nominee is an active, registered Girl Scout volunteer.
- The nominee has received the Thanks Badge.
- This award is based on taking on a leadership role during the previous three years.
- *Requires a Nomination Form and four letters of endorsement.*

The President's Award recognizes the efforts of a service-delivery team or committee whose exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience surpassed team goals and resulted in significant, measurable impact toward reaching the council's overall goals.

- All team or committee members are registered Girl Scout volunteers and have met all requirements and expectations of the positions held.
- The service-delivery team or committee has significantly contributed to one or more of the council's mission-delivery goals.
- The service-delivery team or committee reflects the diversity of the target audience or area it serves, in girl and adult membership, in all pathways offered.
- The service-delivery team actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behavior.
- *Requires nomination form and a letter of endorsement.*

How and when can I submit a nomination?

- Nomination forms and endorsement letters must be received by March 1.

Nomination forms and guidance for endorsement may be found at gssc-mm.org
For more information, customercare@gssc-mm.org or call 1.800.849.GIRL

Take Action

Pair up participants to discuss the following questions and record each other's answers:

- How long have you been a Girl Scout?
- What position(s) do you hold in Girl Scouts?
- What aspects of your work in Girl Scouts are you most proud of?
- What impact might your work have had on girls or your service unit?
- What are your outside interests, hobbies or special talents?

Now, everyone should use the information from their discussions to answer these questions:

- Which award is most appropriate for your partner?
- Do you have enough information to fill it out for your partner and write a letter of support? What information would you highlight?
- Who else might you enlist to write letters of endorsement for your partner?