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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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# **Six Midland-Odessa Girl Scouts Honored with Gold Award**

## **HIGHEST HONOR IN GIRL SCOUTING RECOGNIZES LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY SERVICE**

*Midland, Texas* ~ Six girls were presented the Girl Scout Gold Award at the annual Girl Award ceremony in May in Austin, Texas.

The Girl Scout Gold Award, Girl Scouting's highest achievement, is earned by five to six percent of Girl Scouts ages 14-18. This prestigious award is recognized by employers, organizations and colleges nationwide.

Girls earn the award by successfully completing a Gold Award project with far-reaching effects in her community. The project is more than a good service project, and must encompass organizational, leadership and networking skills.

The Gold Award is such a high honor because it is the culmination of 2 to 3 years of planning and dedication.

Following are the award recipients:

- Charlotte Boyd, Troop 52, Midland
- Courtney Edmiston, Troop 52, Midland
- Mary Margaret Peterson, Juliette, Midland
- Zulaika Boodhwani, Troop 405, Midland
- Jessamyn Morales, Troop 405, Midland
- Amber Stevens, Troop 405, Odessa

### did you know?

*Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest brings together Girl Scouts of the Permian Basin, Girl Scouts of the Rio Grande and Girl Scouts - Zia Council. The merger is part of the nationwide realignment of Girl Scouts USA and effective May 1, 2009.*

*Girl Scouts builds girls of character who make the world a better place. Through a variety of enriching experiences, such as science and technology workshops, sports clinics and community service projects, girls develop leadership, explore interest areas and learn positive decision-making skills that will serve them all their lives. Programs are provided by trained volunteers and staff in local communities.*

***Charlotte Boyd, Troop 52, Midland  
Midland Visitor Center Scrapbook***

Charlotte created a scrapbook to showcase the numerous activity and entertainment options available in Midland, Texas. It was placed at the Chamber of Commerce – Midland Visitors Center as a guide for tourists and prospective residents. Through her research, she learned that economic diversity was a goal of her community, and encouraging tourism was one way to accomplish it.

***Courtney Edmiston, Troop 52, Midland  
Midland Schools Scrapbook***

Courtney collaborated with the schools in her community to create a scrapbook that depicted each school. Many schools created their own page and included key items, such as their focus and activities. The information was consolidated in one large scrapbook for the convenience of potential new residents and parents moving to Midland. It is on display for use by all at the Chamber of Commerce – Midland Visitors Center.

***Mary Margaret Peterson, Juliette, Midland  
Sewing Class for Children at Casa de Amigos***

Mary Margaret set up an after-school program for the fall semester of 2008 to teach children how to sew. Children completed simple projects with the help of volunteers. The children graduated from their life skills course and displayed their finished projects at a party attended by their parents and community leaders. Mary Margaret learned that she can teach and be a leader through this project.

*The Group Project for the next three Gold Award recipients was to document the experiences, stories and significant people in the life of Daphane Tabor, better known to thousands of people as “Daffy”. Daffy worked for Girl Scouts USA and was paired with Debbie Reynolds to lead the national Girl Scout Piper Project in the 1960s. During her years in Girl Scouting, she led girls and adults at councils in Texas, Arizona and Girl Scouts USA. The girls wrote a book about Daphane Tabor titled Memoirs of a Heroine, based on interviews and information they collectively gathered.*

***Zulaikha Boodhwani, Troop 405, Midland***

Zulaikha’s duties were to transcribe the interviews and documents to create the chapters of the book. Zulaikha said she learned that her drive, enthusiasm and determination could help her accomplish anything she set her mind to. The most successful part of the project for her was the irreplaceable friendships she made while working on the book.

***Jessamyn Morales, Troop 405, Midland***

Jessamyn documented photos, slides and memorabilia for the book. While working on this special project, Jessamyn discovered she was much more dedicated and determined than she ever imagined. She benefited personally from her research by getting to know and learning so much from a remarkable woman like Daffy Tabor.

***Amber Stevens, Troop 405, Odessa***

Amber created a DVD to help introduce Daffy Tabor and the book, *Memoirs of a Heroine*. The video included photos, narrative based on memorabilia, interviews, and music. Amber moved to Arizona mid-project and completed her duties via email and U.S. mail! Amber learned she could work on her own and still complete her portion of the project... a very valuable lesson.

*When a group of girls work on a project together, each girl must be responsible for a specific portion of the project. Each girl must evaluate her participation as an individual AND as a member of the group.*