



Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest

MEDIA ADVISORY

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THE BEST OF GIRL SCOUTING RECOGNIZED AT AWARD CEREMONIES

Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest recognized the achievements of their 2009/2010 Gold Award recipients at two ceremonies: the Annual Girl Award Ceremony in Odessa, Texas on April 23, 2010 and again at the Texas State Gold Awards in Austin, Texas on June 14, 2010.

These Girl Scouts represent the best of Girl Scouting and are the foundation of the Girl Scout mission: Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. They dedicated many hours to achieve their goals.

Three girls were presented with the highest award in Girl Scouting, the Girl Scout Gold Award. They are Claire Nelson of Midland, Texas; Jay'me Shrauner of Midland, Texas; and Sydnee Gatewood of Alpine, Texas. **See Gold Award project descriptions and bios below. Photographs attached.**

2010 Gold Award Recipients

Three Girl Scouts age 14-18 earned their Gold Award.

Claire Nelson of Midland, Texas and Jay'me Shrauner of Midland, Texas

Project: The Gold Award project of Jay'me Shrauner and Claire Nelson consisted of organizing a fun run in order to raise awareness about the issue of child abuse prevention. The event was held on May 2, 2009 in Midland. The girls worked closely with members of the Midland County Child Welfare Board, a non-profit organization that helps foster children who have been taken from abusive homes. They had to plan every aspect of the run from barricades, registration, and portable toilets to advertising and awards. There was a 1K and 5K run with the top five finishers in each category earning specially made medals, and everyone enjoyed a lunch of hotdogs afterward. Robert Hallmark, a local radio personality, served as the master of ceremonies. The message of child abuse prevention was spread not only to those who attended the run, but to any and all who were influenced by the advertising through radio, television, and newspaper. In the end, the girls ended up devoting over ninety hours to this project.

Bios:

Claire Nelson is the eighteen year old daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Nelson. She attends Robert E. Lee High School where she is a member of National Honor Society, Orchestra, RebeLEE Yearbook, and Interact Club. She is First Lieutenant in the band and President of Latin Club. She has volunteered with the Midland County Child Welfare Board, St. Ann's Catholic Church, Girl Scouts of the Permian Basin, Septemberfest, Meals on Wheels, and Midland Teen Court. She was chosen as Outstanding Soloist at the 2009 Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest, is a Texas Scholar, was selected as Ms. Talented on the 2010 RebeLEE Court, is a four year band and academic letterman, and a three year orchestra letterman. Claire plans to attend Texas Christian University to major in Music Education.

Jay'me Shrauner is the daughter James and Lisa Shrauner. She is a senior at Robert E. Lee High School in Midland. Jay'me is in the Lee High Rebel band and serves this year as librarian. She has been a member of the All Region Band for 2 years and has been selected for the All Area Band. She will be competing this summer in the State solo and ensemble competition with a quartet. She has been a member of Texas Youth & Government and has advanced to the state level twice. Jay'me has also participated in "Teens in Charge" which is a part of the Midland DFYIT program. Her community service involvement includes with volunteering at the St. Ann's Family Fair painting faces for 4 years, volunteering with the Midland County Child Welfare Board, and serving as a program aid for the Midland Girl Scout day camp. Jay'me plans on starting at Midland College and then transferring to Texas A&M. She is majoring in political science.

Sydnee Gatewood of Alpine, Texas

Project: Sydnee's project was entitled HAPP-E -- Hospital Activity Packets for Patient's Enjoyment. She made "activity packets" for patients in Big Bend Regional Medical Center. Many of us have faced a hospital stay and have managed to ward off boredom by watching TV or even playing video games furnished by the hospital. The scenario in Alpine is much different. Your TV channel choices many times consist of 2 and video games are unheard of. How many times can you read the same magazine? This makes for a very boring hospital stay. Sydnee assembled 210 activity packets for patients to enjoy. Some were for adults and some were for children. She even translated packets into Spanish to accommodate the large Spanish speaking population that is served by the Alpine hospital. Being hospitalized is stressful in itself, but being bored adds to the stress and tension of being hospitalized. Sydnee surveyed the hospital staff for suggestions on the best items to include, secured funding, donations, and organized a small army to assemble to the packets. Sydnee recruited the Alpine High School Anchor Club, a community service organization, to take ownership of this project and continue to provide the hospital with a supply of activity packets.

Bio:

Sydnee Gatewood is the daughter of Richard and Paula Gatewood. As with the other girls, Sydnee's bio reads like a list from Who's Who. She is a 4 year member of the Cross Country team and was elected by the Texas Girls Coaches Association to the Cross Country Academic All State Team in the fall of 2009. She was the 2009 Girl's Team Captain. She is a 4 year member of the Track Team and served as Captain in 2010. Sydnee has participated in UIL academics involving One-Act Play, Journalism Team, and Ready Writing for 4 years. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the Anchor Club currently serving as Vice President. Sydnee has received many honors during her high school years including Kiwanis Club Sophomore of the Year in 2008; Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Delegate in 2008; Blue Bonnet Girls State Delegate in 2009; President's Volunteer Service Award in 2010; and the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award in 2010. Sydnee has served as a Program Aid for numerous Council events and has completed the Counselor-in-Training program at Camp Mitre Peak. She is also in the running to be the Valedictorian of Alpine High School this May and will attend Texas Tech in the fall.



Left to Right: Janet' Sloan (GSDSW Outdoor Program Manager and Gold Award Coordinator), Claire Nelson, Jay'me Shrauner and Sydnee Gatewood.



Left to Right: Claire Nelson, Jay'me Shrauner, Janet' Sloan (GSDSW Outdoor Program Manager and Gold Award Coordinator), and Sydnee Gatewood.

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Boilerplate for Girl Awards

About the Gold Award

Nationally, about 2,500, or 6%, of Girl Scouts age 14-18 earn their Gold Award each year. Someone once described the Girl Scout Gold Award as being "what you really want to be remembered for" in Girl Scouting. For many, the leadership skills, organizational skills, and sense of community and commitment that come from "going for the Gold" set the foundation for a lifetime of active citizenship.

About the Gold Award Project

The Gold Award project is the culmination of all the work a girl puts into "going for the Gold." It is something that a girl can be passionate about—in thought, deed, and action. The project is something that fulfills a need within a girl's community, creates change, and hopefully, is something that becomes ongoing. The project is more than a good service project—it encompasses organizational, leadership, and networking skills. To earn the Gold Award, girls have to complete a seven step process. Some projects can take up to two years to complete.

About Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest

In partnership with 4,000 adult volunteers, Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest serves nearly 12,500 girls each year in 33 counties in West Texas and Southern New Mexico, and helps them discover new abilities, connect with new friends, and take action to improve their communities. Girl Scouts is the world's preeminent leadership development organization, building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. For more information visit www.gsdsw.org.