

**girlscouts**   
of the desert southwest  
southern new mexico  
& west texas



# Ceremony of Honors

**El Paso, TX & Odessa, TX**

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## Message from our Board Chair & CEO

Congratulations to all those being honored!

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the AMAZING individuals being recognized today. Your achievements embody the spirit and values of Girl Scouts, and it is an honor to stand alongside you.

To the girls: Your hard work and dedication have led to this well-deserved recognition. The lessons you've learned will guide you in all that you do.

To the adults: Your unwavering commitment is what makes our organization strong and successful. Congratulations to all! Your accomplishments inspire us all.



Tilli McCarthy Villalobos  
Board Chair



Patty Craven  
CEO

## Board of Directors 2024-2025

### Officers

Tilli McCarthy Villalobos, Board Chair, Las Cruces

Bernadette Granger, Vice Chair, Midland

Andrea Quiroz, Treasurer, Odessa

Patty Collins, Secretary, Hobbs

### Members at Large

Autumn Bohannon, Midland

Catherine Bredemeyer, Odessa

Claudia Camacho, El Paso

Connie Marlow, Midland

Dinorah Vazquez, El Paso

D'nae Robinette Mills, Hobbs

Fayth Franzoy Gillespie, Las Cruces

Gregory Smith, Midland

Juliann Lamb, Las Cruces

Katie Jansen, Las Cruces

Melody Lykins, Ruidoso

Marcela Candia, El Paso

Myrna Ortiz, El Paso

Dr. Tanya Lowrey, Arlington

Thais Ahlstrand, Midland

## Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:  
To serve God\* and my country,  
To help people at all times,  
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

\*Members may substitute for the word God in accordance with their own spiritual beliefs.

## Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be  
honest and fair,  
friendly and helpful,  
considerate and caring,  
courageous and strong,  
and responsible for what I say and do,  
and to respect myself and others,  
respect authority,  
use resources wisely,  
make the world a better place,  
and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

## Girl Scout Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence,  
and character, who make the world a better place.

# The Awards



## Fall Product Top Sellers

- Victoria Duarte, Troop 47135, 184 items
- Esther Esparza, Troop 10234, 195 items
- Savannah Skow, Troop 51123, 309 items
- Ariel-Chanel Sanchez, Troop 55149, 326 items



## Cookies Top Sellers

- Ariel-Chanel Sanchez, Troop 55149, 6296 boxes
- Laylah Rodriguez, Troop 47135, 6372 boxes
- Ariana Patel, Troop 12004, 6480 boxes
- Grace Gibson, Troop 27754, 8518 boxes



## Fall Product Champion

- Alicia Cox
- Haley Rose
- Jeanette Skow



## Fifteen Year Member Pin

- Argelia Moreno

# The Awards



## Man Enough to be a Girl Scout

- Jacob Chavez
- Michael Sanchez
- Robert Watts
- Samuel Mylchreest



## Family Award

- Cass Family
- Medina Family



## Girl Scout Support

- Heather Eagar
- Liz Young
- Marlene Benz
- Tania Ovalle
- Valerie Mickels

# Bronze Award



**Troop 29432 - Aria Love, Ava DeLaGarza, Cataleya Vasquez, Emersyn Curtis, Ginnyfer McGill, Helena Christensen, Julian Gordon, Madeline Madrid, Raylee White, Rilea Flournoy, Suerenity Basquez**

## **Paws-itive Beginnings for Fur Babies**

We worked with Fix West Texas, a non-profit that provides affordable vaccines, spay/neuter services, and helps homeless animals find their forever homes. We made pet adoption kits, learned about best practices for pet care, assembled the kits with detailed care instructions for new pets, and concluded with a tour.



**Troop 34386 - Adalyn Kuzmich, Bridget Hendricks, Emily Glover, Lilian Oliphint, Sydney Hill**

## **Peaceful Pathways**

We partnered with Rays of Hope Children's Grief Center and learned how they help kids through difficult times. We learned healthy ways to deal with emotions. We met with a younger troop and, using what we learned, helped them earn the mental health awareness patch. They made a stress ball and a happysack they could use whenever they were feeling bad. We participated in two farmers markets where we handed out brochures we had made about emotions and healthy ways to express their feelings.



# Bronze Award



**Troop 34386 - Ainsley Stike, Annabelle Sollee, Allison Alvarez, Charlie Oliver, Emily Finley, Georgia Stevens, Grace Granaghan**

## Everyone Needs a Home

We partnered with Midland Animal Shelter and learned why many animals are homeless and come into their care. We led a meeting with a Brownie troop and helped them earn their Pets badge. We taught them what is needed to take care of a pet as well as made tie blankets for dogs and cats and also tug toys for the shelter. We participated in farmers markets with the shelter, handed out brochures, and educated people on what it takes to be a pet owner.



**Troop 34386 - Dylan Venerable, Emerie Gray, Kathryn Shook**

## Project Green

We partnered with Keep Midland Beautiful and learned that Midland has two recycling centers and what can be recycled. We met with a younger troop and taught them about recycling, the problems that littering causes, and made a recycled craft. We participated in farmers markets where we taught kids and adults about Midland's Recycling centers and encouraged everyone to start recycling.

# Bronze Award



**Troop 50021 - Aiyana Medina, Aylani Adame, Luminara Lynch, Natalia Nava, Paola Garcia, Zoey Padilla**

## Children's Garden

The girls saw that ever since COVID hit, the garden had been mostly abandoned. They restored all the garden beds, planted new plants, and created elevated garden boxes and a garden tool hanger. These are now accessible to children. They also created an instructional video that shows gardening basics. This is accessed via QR code next to the garden. They had a garden opening event and handed out the starter plants they grew for visitors to plant.



**Troop 50063 - Alessandra Rench**

## Pet Responsibilities

The nation's animal shelters are in crisis due to people turning in their pets and stray animals being picked up from the streets. We need to do more to educate people to be responsible pet owners by taking care of their pets and spaying or neutering to reduce overpopulation and prevent health issues. My project was to create an animated project using the Flipaclip app to teach Daisies and Brownies about pet ownership and responsibility.

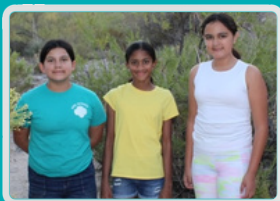
# Bronze Award



**Troop 55914 - Aris Halvorsen, Aundrea Medina, Elina Beaty, Lyric Dodson, Valerie Vasquez**

## Community Clean Up

We observed our El Paso community and noticed that so much of our city is covered by trash. We learned that all the trash that is littered hurts our environment. Once a month we got together and cleaned up a new area of El Paso. We learned that as a team we can make a difference for the place we live in by protecting our environment for our animals, friends, family, and community.



**Troop 64185 - Camille Rose Aguilera, Kimberly Aauto, Mridula Gokulakrishnan**

## The Conservation of Resler Canyon

We did hikes with Frontera Land Alliance and during these hikes, we learned about native plants and animals. During our hike in November, we helped with trail restoration at Knappland. For our Bronze Award, we partnered with Frontera Land Alliance on a project to line the trails at Wakeem/Taschner Nature Preserve with rocks to keep hikers on the trail and made seed bombs to spread around the canyon.

# The President's Volunteer Service Award

## Bronze Level PVSA

### Kids

- Arianna Ovalle
- Aundrea Medina
- Julia Picasso

### Young Adults

- Baryn Brown
- Jane Rayas

### Teens

- Kadee Akers
- Kenzie Pointer
- Toni Gonzalez
- Valerie Vasquez

### Adults

- Dani Akers
- Candy Veroneau
- Rebekah Rayas
- Rocio Nieto

## Silver Level PVSA

### Young Adults

- Sheylah Olmos

### Adults

- Desiree Pointer
- Diane Cass
- Evelyn Kiper
- Karri Carroll
- Maricela Sanchez
- Natiorka Lynch

## Gold Level PVSA

### Kids

- Amelia Long-Olmos
- Ariel-Chanel Sanchez
- Aris (AJ) Halvorsen

### Teens

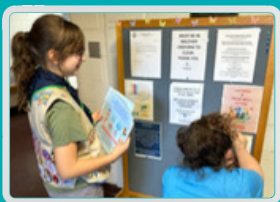
- Abigail Ames
- Arya Cox
- Avia Cox
- Diane Cass
- Ellen Kiper
- Mia Long-Olmos
- Shiloh Wyse

### Adults

- Alicia Cox
- Gabriela Long-Olmos



# Silver Award



## IRG - Mia Long-Olmos

### Bag the Library

The Fort Bliss Mickelsen Community Library uses plastic bags to allow patrons to take their books home after checking them out. While this did work, it was very wasteful, in material and financially. My project was to aid the library in replacing the plastic bags they used. This was accomplished by bringing in donated reusable bags and educating patrons on the harms of plastic. Patrons now have the option to use the reuseable bag for their remaining time on Fort Bliss and at their next duty station.

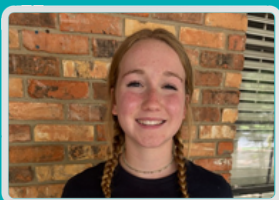


## IRG - Avia Cox, Sophia Howard

### Let Love Grow

Our project addressed the issue of the cleanliness of the air we breathe, both indoors and outdoors. We aimed to educate our community on the importance of indoor air quality. Dirty air affects those with sensitivities, but it is also unhealthy for everyone. The people in our community do not always know how clean the air within their homes or buildings is, which tends to be not very clean at all.

# Silver Award



## **Troop 31046 - Olivia Dobson**

### **Girl Scout Song Fest**

I was a Girl Scout in Dubai, Singapore, and Midland, TX. It didn't matter where I lived; being a Girl Scout is the same wherever you are; we all sing the same songs. Teaching the girls these songs builds a love of Girl Scouts and a way to be together and celebrate friends. This project benefited younger girls in my troop. Many of the leaders in our troop were never Girl Scouts, so they do not know about Girl Scout songs. I created a booklet and a slideshow with videos I made with Junior Girl Scouts to use as a guide to teach the songs to use at the end-of-year Songfest Celebration I organized.



## **Troop 38554 - Kenley Green, Shiloh Wyse**

### **Less Stressed! Learn to Manage Your Stress**

Our Silver Award project addressed the issue of 10-15 year old children not knowing how to handle stress. All teens experience stress, and this can negatively impact all areas of their lives. When they don't know how to handle their stress, it can lead to them getting sick, needing therapy, or hurting themselves or others. We wanted to address this issue and educate 10-15 year olds on how to handle stress in an appropriate manner.

# Silver Award

## **Troop 50216 - Janell Gallardo, Nohelly Miranda**

### **Conflict Resolution**

The project addressed bullying in our school. Many students felt scared and worried to speak up. We created workshops to encourage students to open up about conflicts and resolve them in a mannerly way as a transformer. We helped students share their experiences and learn to support each other, bringing our community closer and creating a safer, more inclusive environment.



## **Troop 50216 - Guillermina Moreno, Jenna Hernandez**

### **Cliques**

We took the issue of cliques as these are a group of students that form and are exclusive to a few people that have shared interests, values, beliefs, popularity, and intellect. These cliques cause issues with others that are excluded as they are trying to fit in with others and making friends difficult. This causes students not in cliques to be a target for bullying, being rejected, mental health issues, and loneliness, and shying away from engaging in school events or activities.



# Silver Award



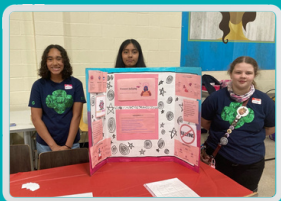
**Troop 50216 - Leunah Covarrubias,  
JoeAna Paniagua, Regina Nunez,  
Viviann Valenzuela**

## Stereotypes & Peer Pressure

As young women attending an all-girls school, we found that gender stereotypes and peer pressure are very detrimental in our everyday lives. We think it is important to address these issues and how they affect our mental health and overall wellbeing. Since this is very close to us and affects all of us in some way, we wanted to bring awareness and ways that we can combat gender stereotypes and peer pressure in our community, especially in tweens and teens.

**Troop 50216 - Ashlee Vera, Elizabeth  
Larin, Marcela Mays**

## Anti-Bullying



In our Silver Award project, my group members and myself researched bullying and its impact on kids, teens, and even adults today. Bullying is a very common concept and is taught and explained to most children in schools. We think we know about this, but do we really? We discovered through our research different pieces of information from various websites, interviews, and videos to put together one large presentation.



# Silver Award



## **Troop 55726 - Lillian Hill**

### **Flag Exchange & Retirement**

My project idea was retiring unserviceable flags and replacing them with new ones. Whenever I addressed the root cause of my issue by researching everything about flags, making a slideshow about them, and purchasing them. I started to get flags and replace them. It wasn't always an easy project. Sometimes I had to explain for 20-30 minutes why they needed a new one. However, in the end, I retired more than 50 flags and gave out even more. I taught other people, and even while talking to them, I still learned a lot!

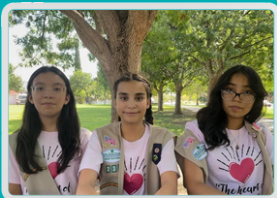


## **Troop 61229- Amelia Gonzalez**

### **Be Calm, Don't Stress Calming Jars**

Learning how to cope with stress helps you stay mentally and physically healthy. It is important to learn how to deal with stress. Sometimes we have no control over the situation we face, but we can work on how to face the problem. I asked one of the directors of the El Paso Children's Hospital if calming jars would help the children at the hospital. He mentioned anything that could help the children deal with or cope with their stress would definitely help them during their stay at the hospital and even after they leave.

# Silver Award



## **Troop 61231 - Anais Hernandez, Hanna Neira, Ivanna Aragon**

### **Promotion of Eco-Friendly Straws**

The issue the project addressed was that many restaurants use plastic straws, which leads to pollution and a large amount of plastic waste being created. Plastic straws harm the environment, humans, and animals because they do not biodegrade. We can reduce plastic waste by using biodegradable straws instead of plastic straws. In just the U.S., 500 billion straws have been used. With the support from local restaurant owners, we can reduce plastic straw use in our region of El Paso, TX, and Las Cruces, NM.



## **Troop 64201 - Elizabeth Vasquez, Isabella Favila**

### **Fidgets for Dementia**

Most patients with dementia forget how to do these things, like zipping their zippers, buttoning their buttons, hooking their suspenders, etc. We researched dementia patients and learned that they lose muscle memory and need the assistance of repetitive skills of their everyday activities. This helps them develop coordination and build strength for activities of daily living such as tying their shoes, brushing their teeth independently, getting dressed, buttoning shirts or pants, and using buckles.

## Honor Troops

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Troop 50021 - El Paso, TX - Cotton Valley SU  
Troop 50063 - El Paso, TX - Cotton Valley SU  
Troop 50216 - El Paso, TX - Cotton Valley SU  
Troop 50321 - El Paso, TX - Cotton Valley SU  
Troop 51123 - Las Cruces, NM - Desert Diamonds SU  
Troop 55914 - El Paso, TX - Indian Summer SU  
Troop 61231 - El Paso, TX - Painted Desert SU



## Program Aide

Eleanor Holbrook - Troop 27137 - Odessa SU  
Elizabeth Larin - Troop 50216 - Cotton Valley SU  
Guillermina Moreno - Troop 50216 - Cotton Valley SU  
Janell Gallardo - Troop 50216 - Cotton Valley SU  
Kenley Green - Troop 38554 - Emerald SU  
Kenzie Pointer - Troop 10032 - Desert Mountain SU  
Luna Lozano - Troop 62534 - Desert Diamonds SU  
Molly McGee - Troop 10234 - Desert Mountain SU  
Regina Nunez - Troop 50216 - Cotton Valley SU  
Shiloh Wyse - Troop 38554 - Emerald SU  
Sophia Malakowsky - Troop 62534 - Desert Diamonds SU

# The Awards



## Appreciation Pin

- Amanda Stevens
- Desiree Pointer
- Elizabeth Mays
- Jennifer Lee
- Jessica Francis
- Kelly Sterrett
- Lara Walter
- Michelle Flores
- Natalie Zarrillo
- Stacy Eriksen
- Stephanie Gardea
- Stephanie Hibner



## Volunteer of Excellence

- Candy Veroneau



## Girl Scout of the Year

- Jane Rayas
- Savannah Skow
- Toni Marie Gonzalez

# Gold Award

## **Aubree Kiniery** **DEAR BODY - I'm** **Listening**

I organized an educational event aimed towards women (ages 13-25) about the functioning of the female body and the importance of caring for it. I had guidance from women's health experts to identify commonly overlooked issues and prevalent problems. I wanted to encourage open discussions about women's health. This topic is often considered taboo, which can lead to a lack of understanding and potentially more serious health issues.



## **Amelia Wardy** **Not Far Away - Family** **Resource Packs for** **Peace & Understanding**

During my senior high school year, I participated on the Teen Advisory Council at the El Paso Holocaust Museum to learn what teens did or did not know about the Holocaust. There is lack of education among young people today surrounding the Holocaust and anti-Semitism. I want to spread information to younger audiences focusing on how to be more accepting towards others, how to combat racism and intolerance towards other minority groups in today's society.



# Gold Award

## Baryn Foster Brown

### Braxton's Brown Bears

Childhood bereavement is not an easy topic to discuss and after a loss of a child, many programs and memorial items are presented to parents, but I found very few provide aid to children after the tough loss of a sibling. I assisted funeral homes, grief centers and hospitals in connecting with kids after the loss of a sibling by handing out numerous Braxton's Brown Bears. With this, I hope that it allows the family to keep their Angel Baby as part of their daily lives, just in a different capacity.



## Charlene Switzer

### El Paso Efforts for

### Monarch Preservation

Monarch butterflies are on the endangered species list due to the detrimental effects of climate change, deforestation, and poor farming practices. I created an interactive and informative presentation and showed it to an audience at the El Paso Zoo's Bugfest event. I also helped inform the public about butterfly waystations which are places that provide monarch butterflies with the resources they need to survive and reproduce. I also provided milkweed seeds so the zoo and my guests could make their own waystation.



# Gold Award

## Savannah Skow

### Mi CASA Es Su CASA

I addressed the struggles youth face when aging out of the foster care system in New Mexico and the need for more resources. Many youths' cases don't close before they turn 18, at which point most services end. About 30% become homeless, and around one in four are incarcerated. I worked with Mesilla Casa to provide six lockers for aged out youth to store their valuable belongings. Many of these youth have no place to store their valuable documents and items and they may be lost or stolen. My project provided six lockers at the Mesilla Casa office for these youths to store their valuables, preventing loss or theft.



## Trifecta Award

The Trifecta Award recognizes Girl Scouts who have earned all three Highest Awards:

**Amelia Wardy**  
**Aubree Kiniery**  
**Baryn Foster Brown**  
**Charlene Switzer**  
**Savannah Skow**



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southern new mexico  
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# Thank you!

**Girl Scouting builds girls of  
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