



girlscouts 
of the desert southwest
southern new mexico
& west texas

CEREMONY OF HONORS

December 2, 2023
El Paso, TX & Midland, TX

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Thais Ahlstrand
GSDSW
Board Chair



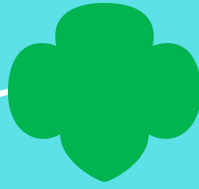
Patty Craven
GSDSW CEO

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR & CEO

Congratulations to everyone being honored! Each year, we are grateful for the wonderful and amazing volunteers we have in our organization and the outstanding community partners. Each makes a difference in our Girl Scouts lives and we are so thankful.

This season, you may be wondering why we are having another Ceremony of Honors so close to the prior years' recognition. We are now aligning our recognitions with our membership year instead of waiting until the spring. This allows us to celebrate you more quickly and remind you how wonderful you are!

Girls, your hard work paid off, and the lessons learned will help you succeed in your endeavors for the rest of your lives. To the adults, thank you for all your hard work and dedication to our Girl Scouts and our council. Without you, our organization would not be what it is today. Congratulations!!!



Board of Directors 2023-2024

Officers

Thais Ahlstrand, Board Chair, Midland
Tilli McCarthy Villalobos, Vice Chair, Las Cruces
Gregory Smith, Treasurer, Midland
Patty Collins, Secretary, Hobbs

Members at Large

Andrea Quiroz, Odessa
Autumn Bohannon, Midland
Brenda Tompkins, El Paso
Catherine Bredemeyer, Odessa
Claudia Camacho, El Paso
Connie Marlow, Midland
Criselda Carrasco, Pecos
Fayth Franzoy Gillespie, Las Cruces
Juliann Lamb, Las Cruces
Melody Lykins, Ruidoso
Myrna Ortiz, El Paso
Nancy Sanders, El Paso
Dr. Tanya Lowrey, Odessa



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.

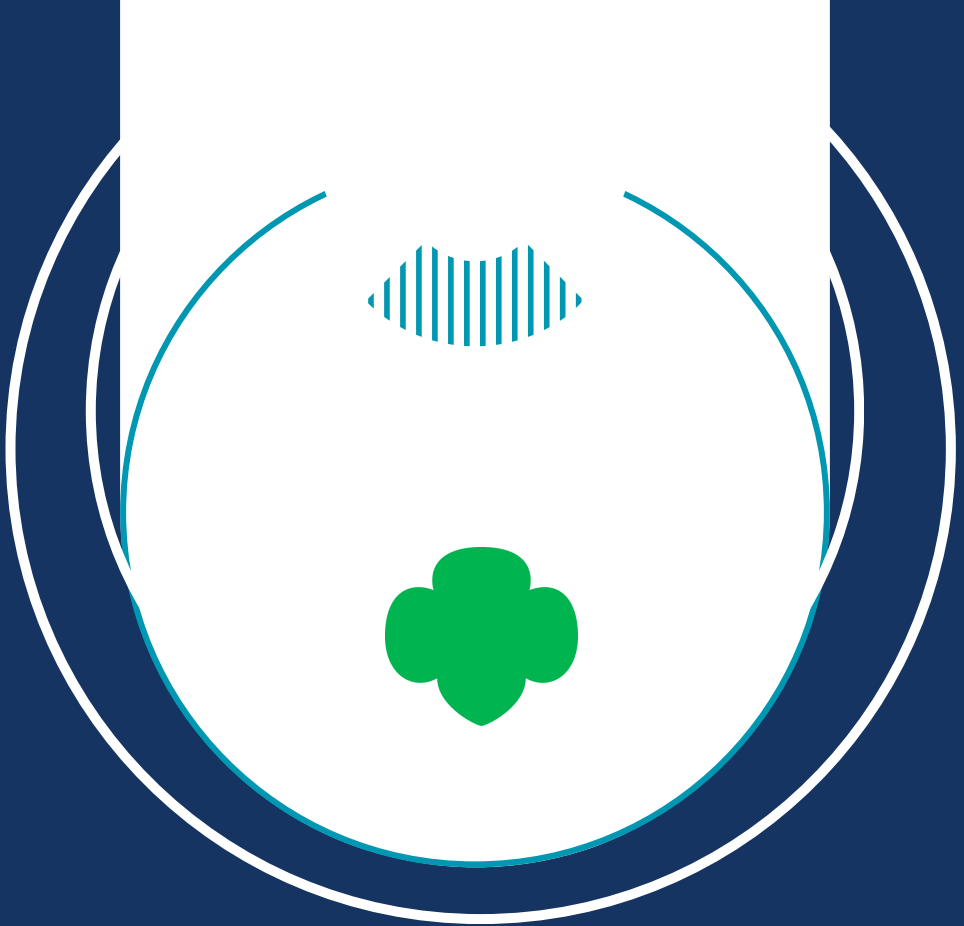
*Members may substitute for the word God
in accordance with their own spiritual beliefs.

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.

Our Mission

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



WHY AWARDS

Girl Scouts is about achievement. From that first new friend to going to camp and earning a badge to completing your Gold Award - it's all Girl Scouts.

While Girl Scouts is girl-led, we couldn't do it without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. The countless hours of planning to the worry the activity won't work right to the getting the troop financials done before the deadline. They do it for one reason - the girls. We recognize them for one reason - we couldn't do this without them.



THE AWARDS

**Go-
Getter
Award**



The Go-Getter Award

- Haley Rose
- Kelly Johnson

**Leader
Award**



The Leader Award

- Rebekah Rayas

**Man
Enough
to be a Girl
Scout**



Man Enough to be a Girl Scout

- Brandon Cass
- Daniel Galindo
- Raul Medina

**Cookie
Champion**



Cookie Champion

- Haley Rose
- Ida Webb
- Tammi Windsor

BRONZE AWARD

The Bronze Award is the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can earn. Working with up to 20 other Junior Girl Scouts, they must complete at least 20 hours of work on their project.



Troop 10032 - Madalynn Baldwin, Penelope Bastian, Emily Seymore, Maeci Small

Buddy Bench

As children of military members, we understand what it feels like to be new students and need to make new friends. A buddy bench helps new students express their need for a friend to play with during recess. We built the bench from scrap wood donated by a parent. Utilizing knowledge from parent volunteers, we learned how to cut wood, use jigs, drill angled holes, sand, paint wood, and apply a clear coat. The bench was placed on the playground for everyone to enjoy for years to come.



Troop 27754 Anna Frates, Grace Gibson, Lillian McCrury

Pet Adoption Bags

These pet adoption bags were created for new pet parents who adopt a cat or dog from the Odessa Humane Society. We wanted to donate to the Odessa Humane Society because they are a non-profit, no-kill shelter that receives no funding from the city, county, or state, and we felt that the Odessa Humane Society would benefit the most. We created more than 300 adoption bags: 100 for cats, 100 for small/medium dogs, and 100 for large dogs. Each bag included a collar, a toy, a treat, two pee pads, a bandana, and a note with a QR code on it for the new pet parent to get valuable pet information.



BRONZE AWARD



Troop 38554 - Shiloh Wyse

Educational Video and Peanut Butter Drive for Meals on Wheels

I had been volunteering at my local Meals on Wheels for about a year and noticed during that time that I didn't see many kids my age there. I also noticed a lot of times the employees there had to ask people to take two and sometimes even three routes because they didn't have enough volunteers. That's when I came up with the idea to make a video explaining how easy and fun the process is. That way, I could show other kids and fellow Girl Scouts and hopefully inspire them to volunteer there too. I also wanted to give back to Meals on Wheels clients, and after talking to them, I realized that peanut butter would be the perfect item to collect. I set up a peanut butter drive and donated 202 jars of peanut butter!



Troop 38823 - Sarah Fadel, Halyn Pruett, Lillian Welborn, Savannah Williamson

Hope House Serenity Garden

We built a serenity garden for the Hope House, a cancer house serving patients that travel to Midland. Their old garden was at a major entrance to the facility and included a lounge area used for relaxation. We researched which plants were suitable for the semi-arid climate, took measurements, and mapped out a plan. Instructions on the needs of plants and how to plant were added to their plans. We cleaned up the old garden, then added plants, garden soil, mulch, and handmade birdhouses. We are happy to help make the patient's stay a little brighter.



BRONZE AWARD



Troop 58903 - Diane Cass, Brook Rodriguez

New Pet Parent Bags

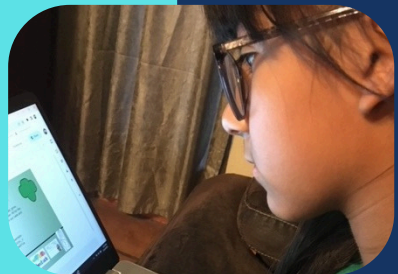
We assembled 100 new pet parent bags and donated them to the El Paso Humane Society. We held a yard/bake sale to earn the money to purchase the supplies to make 50 cat/kitten and 50 dog/puppy bags. The bags included a brochure on tips for new pet parents, a collar, a toy, and either a cat treat or doggy bag. We gave the Humane Society representative an electronic version of the flyer to distribute after the assembled bags are gone. We learned to budget our proceeds from the yard sale and adjust our expectations for what we could purchase.



Troop 64125 - Sophie Lerma, Valentina Nevarez

Girl Scout Communication Platform System

We wanted to assist service units and troops who volunteer with a communication system platform. The online components would be an attendance feature, agenda linking capability, feedback form responses, and troop sharing responses. We customized for the needs of the service unit or troops, and it would be shared so that each service unit or troop could build upon the customization that was needed for their unit or troop. The girls learned about marketing skills, effective communication systems during the project, systems to use with clients, coding, and web page designs. The most challenging part of the project was the revisions needed for its customization.



THE PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD



Bronze Level PVSA

Teens

- Avia Cox
- Ellen Kiper
- Kimberley Wise
- Samantha Wise

Adult

- Evelyne Kiper
- Maricela Sanchez

Silver Level PVSA

Kids

- Arya Cox

Gold Level PVSA

Kids

- Amelia Long-Olmos
- Ariel-Chanel Sanchez

Young Adults

- Sheylah Olmos

Adult

Teens

- Mia Long-Olmos
- Shiloh Wyse

Adult

- Alicia Cox
- Gabriela Long-Olmos

HONOR TROOPS

- Troop 50321 - El Paso, Cotton Valley SU
- Troop 51123 - Las Cruces, Desert Diamonds SU
- Troop 55914 - El Paso, Indian Summer SU
- Troop 61229 - El Paso, Painted Desert SU
- Troop 62340 - Las Cruces, Desert Diamonds SU





Appreciation Pin



THE AWARDS

Appreciation Pin

- Candy Veroneau
- Celia Malin
- Eli Roe
- Heather Westerfield
- Jana Jones
- Jenny Londergan
- Kalee Richardson
- Laura Dobbins
- Martha Benevidez
- Noah Westerfield (posthumously)
- Phillip Bell
- Roslyn Willis
- Sydney Bauer
- Tambi Arnold
- Tracy Madrid

Outdoor Enthusiast



Outdoor Enthusiast

- Christina Zanella-Valerio
- Margo Trevino-Torres

SILVER AWARD



The Silver Award is the highest award a Cadette Girl Scout can earn. Working with a small team of Girl Scouts or on their own, they must complete at least 50 hours of work on their project.

Troop 61229 - Santana M. Gomez

Comfort Blankets for Migrant Children

Leaving everything behind can make migrant children sad and anxious. It is important that they have something that will help them feel more secure. My project was to sew comfort blankets for migrant children that are coming to the U.S. When I finished this project, I realized that I love making people feel happy. I find that helping someone feel better in any way makes me feel like I put a little bit better into this world.



Troop 38823 - Ximena Armendariz, Haleigh Green, Moira Ward

Operation Growing Together Garden Center

We learned the importance of adapting our plans when life throws you a curveball. Some difficulties that we faced included finding a time when we could all get together to work, losing our organization and finding a new beneficiary for our garden, and shopping for lumber that was not too pricey or warped. With the help of troop cookie funds, we were able to fund our project, and Sibley Nature Center will maintain the donated garden center for future use.



SILVER AWARD

Troop 64125 Lily Lerma, Alejandra Nevarez, Rebecca Trevizo

Girl Scout Communication Platform System

We wanted to assist service units and troops who volunteer with a communication system platform. The online components would be an attendance feature, agenda linking capability, feedback form responses, and troop sharing responses. We customized it for the needs of the service unit or troops. The girls learned about marketing skills, communication systems during the project, systems to use with clients, coding, and web page designs. The most challenging portion of the project was the revisions that were needed for the customization of the project.





Thanks Badge



Thanks Badge

- Thais Ahlstrand

Community Partner



Community Partner

- Troop Mitre

Innovator



Innovator

- Michele Carrasco

Volunteer of Excellence



Volunteer of Excellence

- Audrey Curry
- Katie Craven
- Tatum Galindo

GOLD AWARD

Seniors and Ambassadors earn the Gold Award - the highest award in Girl Scouting - by developing and carrying out lasting solutions to issues in their neighborhoods and beyond. Gold Award candidates must complete a minimum of 80 hours on their project. Gold Award Girl Scouts truly are the world changers, rock stars, role models, and real-life heroes we all look up to.



Reagan Avis

Love Knots

I wanted to raise awareness and help educate my community and beyond on how to minimize the number of plastic bags flying around and getting stuck in our trees. The concept of my project is simple: tying a knot in your plastic grocery bags will keep them from filling with air and spreading across our community, getting stuck in trees. I worked with Keep Midland Beautiful to develop a video that can be used to educate our community, state, and beyond for years to come. After meeting with troops across our council, holding my own park cleanup, and using the power of social media, I was able to reach many people across my area. Love Knots was highlighted in the Midland Reporter Telegram and on NewsWest9.

GOLD AWARD



Leah Skinner

Take a Nail Break

I created a nail class to help with one's mental health as it relates to stress reduction. The class is completely free, and all personal materials are given at the beginning of the session in a box. The box includes a makeup sponge, glass nail file, nail art brush, liquid latex, top and base coat, pair of tweezers, and a QR code to my gold award-only YouTube channel showing how to use each item. Scissors and colored nail polish were also provided, but outside of the box. I created a YouTube channel to help teach how to use each item, along with how to paint an American or French manicure. The class itself is about learning how to paint your nails in a community environment and how that affects mental health by giving yourself time to focus on something new and different while doing it with others.



GOLD AWARD



Orlyanka Tantchou

Break the Bias

I concluded that the lack of female leadership in the workplace is a rising generational issue. The need for role models in young girls' life as a source of inspiration to become the next generation of women leaders. All girls should have a female role model as a source of inspiration to become the next generation of female leaders. I interviewed several local female leaders to inquire about their leadership development journey. Once completed, I shared my results with my fellow Girl Scouts, and the importance of role models and their contributions to the community. I recorded these interviews to post on Spotify (an online platform accessible to all) to share the inspirational messages and insight my interviewees have on failure, success, perseverance, confidence, and more.

Special Thank You to our Gold Award Advisory Committee

AnnRose Howard, Danielle Mulheron,
Iris Maraboto, Karmen Hendrix Bryant,
Patty Craven, Rink Somerday, Thais Ahlstrand



TRIFECTA AWARD

The Trifecta Award, new in 2023, recognizes our Girl Scouts who have completed all three Highest Awards (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) during their Girl Scout career.

These girls exemplify the Girl Scout mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

Reagan Avis

Bronze: Support for Local Law Enforcement

Silver: Little Free Library

Gold: Love Knots

Leah Skinner

Bronze: Community Garden Plot

Silver: Information Signs (campfire, first aid, knots, and plants) for Girl Scout Camp

Gold: Take a Nail Break

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Thank you!

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