

PRESS RELEASE

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LOCAL GIRL SCOUTS SPEND MORE THAN 26,000 HOURS IMPROVING COMMUNITIES Record 298 area young women awarded with Girl Scouts' highest honor

LOS ANGELES, June 18, 2013 – One girl replaced all Styrofoam trays in her school district with more environmentally friendly paper trays; another taught photography and donated digital cameras to homeless families; one young woman aimed to combat childhood obesity at three schools and prompted 30-percent more kids to walk to school—these are just three of the 298 girls who are using everything they've learned in Girl Scouts to lead positive change in greater Los Angeles.

This year, a record number of outstanding young women from Los Angeles County and parts of Kern, San Bernardino and Ventura counties made local, national, and global impacts through more than 26,000 hours of leadership, advocacy and service, earning them the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award—the highest honor in Girl Scouting.

"Earning my Gold Award has shown me the impact you can make when you speak up on behalf of yourself and those in need," said Gold Award recipient Andrea Perez of Los Angeles.

"The most valuable lessons I have learned were leadership, responsibility, and community," said Gold Award Girl Scout Christine Nguyen of Arcadia. "I was able to heighten the awareness of community service to my peers."

The Girl Scout Gold Award is a national award with significant standards that elevate a girl's leadership skills, creativity, value and efforts to make the world a better place. Earning the Gold Award requires the planning and implementation of a challenging, large-scale project that is innovative, engages others and has a lasting impact on its targeted community with an emphasis on sustainability. The prestigious award recognizes Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts—girls in ninth through 12th grades—for outstanding accomplishments in leadership, community service, career planning and personal development.

"These 298 young women lead by example, paving the way for positive change in the world. They inspire others to follow their lead in addressing critical issues, revitalizing community treasures, and giving voices to groups that need it," said Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles Chief Executive Officer Lise L. Luttgens. "We are extremely proud of them for this exceptional achievement."

About Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles

Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles serves more than 43,000 girls in partnership with more than 25,000 volunteers throughout the diverse communities of Los Angeles County and parts of Kern, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties. The council's programs engage girls in the areas of Leadership, Arts & Culture, Business Smarts, Environment & Outdoor Adventure, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), and Wellness & Healthy Living. To join, volunteer, reconnect, or support, visit www.girlscoutsla.org or call 1-888-GSGLA-4-U.

MEDIA NOTES:

- Gold Award recipients are available for interviews regarding their unique, impactful projects and overall Girl Scouting experiences. To obtain more information about Gold Award projects in specific greater Los Angeles cities, please contact Melanie Glover: mglover@girlscoutsla.org.
- Please note: The national organization is called Girl Scouts of the USA, NOT Girl Scouts of America. The local Girl Scout council is called Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles.