

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

100 Years of Golden Ideas Turned to Action by Girls *High school Girl Scouts spend 21,000 hours on impactful community projects, earning them Girl Scouts' highest honor, the Gold Award, turning 100 this year*

LOS ANGELES, May 27, 2016 – Since 1916, thousands of Girl Scouts across the country have earned Girl Scouts' highest honor—now called the Girl Scout Gold Award—for demonstrating extraordinary leadership and making change in their communities. On **Saturday, June 4** in Pasadena, 265 Girl Scouts in Greater Los Angeles—the largest Gold Award class in the nation—will be honored by the regional Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles (GSGLA) council, while celebrating the prestigious award's centennial.

([Click here](#) for a list of Gold Award recipients by city.)

Nationally, only six percent of all eligible Girl Scouts achieve the Gold Award. Girls who earn the Gold Award automatically enter the military one rank higher, and qualify for college scholarships, additional national service awards, and more. As Gold Awardees, these girls are part of an elite group of women. Formerly called the Golden Eaglet, Curved Bar, and First Class, the Gold Award was introduced in 1916, four years after Girl Scouts was established in the U.S.

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. In greater LA today, Gold Award projects tackled things like illiteracy, homelessness, sexual assault, discrimination, pollution, and more. This year, one girl created a science camp in Compton; another designed and built wheelchair-accessible telescope mounts; and another girl added a new basketball court to a homeless shelter, for example.

([Click here](#) for a sampling of 2016 Gold Award projects.)

“For 100 years, Girl Scouts has recognized girls who demonstrate extraordinary leadership by paving the way for positive change in the world,” said Lise L. Luttgens, GSGLA CEO. “These girls inspire others to follow their lead in solving problems in sustainable ways. Their projects have left a permanent effect on their communities, and the process has made an impression on each of them.”

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 Larsen: mlarsen@girlscoutsla.org.
- Please note: Media is invited to Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles' Centennial Gold Award Ceremony, June 4, 3–5 p.m. at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, 300 E. Green Street. KCET's Val Zavala will emcee. RSVP with Melanie Larsen.

About Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles:

Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, serves more than 40,000 girls in partnership with more than 24,000 volunteers throughout the diverse communities of Los Angeles County and parts of Kern, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties. The council engages girls through programs in Leadership, Business and Financial Literacy, Outdoor Adventure, STE[A]M (science, technology, engineering, art, math), and Healthy Living. To join, volunteer, reconnect, or support, visit www.girlscoutsla.org or call 213-213-0123.