

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THREE L.A.-AREA GIRL SCOUTS NOMINATED FOR
2016 NATIONAL YOUNG WOMEN OF DISTINCTION**

High-schoolers recognized for teaching STEM in Compton, capturing the oral history of Japanese-American internment camp detainees, and supporting dental hygiene in rural Ecuador

LOS ANGELES, CA June 28, 2016 — Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles (GSGLA) is happy to announce that three local high-schoolers—Annie Benedict (Rancho Palos Verdes), Kaitlin Tang (Rancho Palos Verdes), and Alexandra Bucheli (Chino Hills)—are in the running for the title of 2016 National Young Women of Distinction for their exceptional Gold Award projects.

Every year, Girl Scouts of the USA selects 10 Girl Scouts from across the nation—based on nominees submitted by regional councils—to be named National Young Women of Distinction. This special honor highlights girls' extraordinary leadership on projects that have measurable and sustainable impacts. Along with national recognition, if selected as National Young Women of Distinction, the girls will each receive a \$5,000 college scholarship from The Kappa Delta Foundation and a \$5,000 matching scholarship from Girl Scouts of the USA.

"As we celebrate the centennial of Girl Scouts' highest honor, now called the Girl Scout Gold Award, it's important to recognize the diverse ways girls are taking matters into their own hands and being the change the world needs," said Lise L. Luttgens, CEO, Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles. "These three nominees are an inspiration to girls around the world and throughout the Girl Scout Movement."

The ten 2016 National Young Women of Distinction honorees will be announced mid-July. Read more about the L.A. regional nominees and their remarkable projects below.

Annie Benedict, Rancho Palos Verdes:

To earn her Girl Scout Gold Award, Annie developed a two-week science camp at Our Lady of Victory School in Compton. She created lesson plans and a website, and taught middle-school students the scientific method through hands-on experiments. Her camp laid the foundation for the school to conduct its own science fair and support students to compete at the Los Angeles County Science and Engineering Fair (LACSEF).

Kaitlin Tang, Rancho Palos Verdes:

Kaitlyn's Gold Award project was sparked by her interest in Japanese-American history. She interviewed descendants of internees from the WWII Tuna Canyon Detention Station and educated the community through presentations at elementary schools, community centers, and museums, and through videos for the Tuna Canyon travel exhibit.

Alexandra Bucheli, Chino Hills:

Alexandra's Gold Award project offered aid to a community in Ecuador by teaching its residents proper dental hygiene. She donated dental supplies to the residents and created visual lessons about maintaining dental health. Inspired by her project, a health organization in Spain will continue to visit the village annually to give free dental health check-ups.

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.



Caption: Annie Benedict, one of three local nominees for Girl Scouts of the USA's National Young Women of Distinction, teaches Compton middle-schoolers how to conduct their own science experiments, empowering them to one day enter the county science fair.