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Girl Scout Adult Awards and Recognitions



Welcome



Welcome to the Girl Scouts Western Oklahoma packet for Adult Volunteer Awards, Years of Service and other recognitions. Girls and adults in Girl Scouting show their appreciation for an adult volunteer in many ways – a smile, “thank you”, flowers or handmade card, are just a few of the informal ways girls and adults show volunteers how much they are appreciated.

In addition, Girl Scouts Western Oklahoma has a formal system for honoring our outstanding adult volunteers.

Do you know a volunteer who has made an exceptional contribution to furthering the Girl Scout mission? This packet contains all the information you need to nominate that person for an award and bring their accomplishments to our attention.

Included in this packet is a section on Adult Recognitions in Girl Scouting: the why, who and what behind the adult awards. There is a matrix of our Girl Scout National and Council level awards with descriptions of who should be nominated and what is needed to make a formal nomination.

Finally, this packet contains information volunteers can submit to share with Girl Scouts Western Oklahoma in regards to how many years they have been an adult member of Girl Scouts. We want to honor all adults who have been long standing members of the Girl Scout movement with a Years of Service Pin.

Adults receiving an award as well as those with 15 or more Years of Service will be celebrated at our Adult Recognition and Leadership Ceremony at Girl Scout University in the fall.



We look forward to hearing from you and accepting your nominations. If you have any questions regarding this packet, the Adult Award nomination process, or Years of Service process, please contact the **Volunteer Development department at 405-528-GIRL (4475) or 800-698-0022 or by email at Info@gswestok.org .**

Adult Recognitions in Girl Scouting

Why do they volunteer?

People volunteer for countless reasons, but the bottom line is, most volunteers are motivated by the quality of their service and the people they are serving. When volunteers know their time and energy are appreciated and that they are valued by Girl Scouts, they commit themselves even more to the organization and the mission of building girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. Volunteers also want to know that their service is helping the greater good – that together we all can make a difference in girls' lives. Therefore, volunteer recognition can be one of the most powerful tools for retaining the invaluable women and men who volunteer for Girl Scouts.



The key to successfully recognizing volunteers is:

- Do it well
- Do it often
- Make it meaningful



How to create an attitude of appreciation?

1. Be aware of the extra effort put forth by an individual.
2. Take the time to mention a person's service or simply say "Thank You" for a job well done.
3. Help people to attain a higher level of achievement.
4. Develop a climate wherein work is sincerely noticed and noted at all levels.

When and how a recipient is recognized will make the expression of gratitude memorable. Recognitions might be made on special Girl Scout holidays, at a Service Unit meeting, at a special recognition event immediately following service rendered or at a community event.

Who to consider for recognition?

1. Consider adult volunteers serving Girl Scouts at any capacity.
2. Consider people or organizations outside Girl Scouting who provide an invaluable support to Girl Scouts.



Informal Recognitions

Some ways to say an informal “Thank You” could include:

1. A simple note
2. A framed photograph of a project or event
3. Flowers or a plant for the garden
4. Create a special award

Formal Recognitions

For truly significant service there is a formal adult recognition program in Girl Scouting. These Council and National Awards recognize outstanding accomplishments that go well beyond what would be expected for the position held. These awards are determined through a nomination process: the Adult Award Nomination form is completed with endorsements and reviewed by the Adult Award Committee. The Adult Award Nomination Form is on GSWESTOK’s website. Individuals recommending the nominee are listed as endorsements in addition to the individual completing the nomination form.



The Volunteer of Excellence

- This award recognizes volunteers who have contributed outstanding service while partnering directly with girls in any pathway to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through use of the National Program Portfolio or who have contributed outstanding service in support of the council’s mission delivery to girl and adult members.
- Be an active, registered adult Girl Scout in good standing with an approved background check.
- Needs 2 Endorsements.



The Appreciation Pin

- The Appreciation Pin recognizes an individual’s exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience; this support has had a measurable impact within one geographic area of service or Service Unit.
- Be an active, registered adult Girl Scout in good standing with an approved background check.
- Needs 2 Endorsements.



The Honor Pin

- The Honor Pin recognizes an individual’s exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience; this support has had measurable impact on two or more geographic areas of service or Service Units to reach and surpass the mission-delivery goals of the council.
- Be an active, registered adult Girl Scout in good standing with an approved background check.
- Needs 3 Endorsements.



The Thanks Badge

- The Thanks Badge honors an individual whose ongoing commitment, leadership, and service has had an exceptional, measurable impact on meeting the mission-delivery goals and priorities of the entire Council or the entire Girl Scout Movement.
- Be an active, registered adult Girl Scout in good standing with an approved background check.
- Needs 4 Endorsements.



The Thanks Badge II

- The Thanks Badge II honors a previous Thanks Badge award recipient who has continued to provide exemplary service in a leadership role which resulted in a measurable impact benefitting the entire Council or entire Girl Scout Movement.
- Be an active, registered adult Girl Scout in good standing with an approved background check.
- Needs 4 Endorsements.

Loretta Hinkle Lifesaving Award

- The Loretta Hinkle Lifesaving Award honors the GS Adult volunteer who has saved a human life or attempted to save it under circumstances that indicate heroism or risk to their own life and who has performed heroic acts.
- Be an active, registered adult Girl Scout in good standing with an approved background check.
- Needs 4 Endorsements.



Volunteer Years of Service Pin

- Recognizes Years of Volunteer Service given as a registered adult volunteer member only.
- Adult volunteers eligible with 15 or more Years of Service will be celebrated at our Adult Recognition and Leadership Ceremony at Girl Scout University in the fall.
- Be an active, registered adult Girl Scout in good standing with an approved background check.



Membership Numeral Guard

- Represents years of membership in Girl Scouting as a registered girl and adult combined.
- Adult volunteers eligible with 20 or more years as a registered Girl and Adult Girl Scout celebrated at our Adult Recognition and Leadership Ceremony at Girl Scout University in the fall.

Community Award

- An organization or unregistered individual who has provided outstanding service to the Council by assisting 2 or more Troops or a Service Unit.
- Certificate given to the Service Unit to present to Organization or individual.

Nomination Form Tips

Help make sure your candidates and nominees receive the recognition they deserve for their hard work with Girl Scouts.

Do:

- Tell us all you can. The Adult Awards Committee can only work with what is in front of them. If you don't tell them about the hard work and accomplishments of your nominee, they won't know.
- Include as much and as many personal insights and anecdotes as you can pertaining to your nominee.
- Show the growth of your nominee. If possible tell the committee how you feel the person has shown growth in her/his contributions to Girl Scouting.
- Be results oriented. Do not say things like the candidate is responsible, friendly, etc. Tell what they achieved and how they achieved it.
- Explain your personal connection to the candidate, if applicable.
- Include endorsers for your nominee. These endorsers will be contacted by the committee, as references to your candidate.
- Remember that details are important.



Don't:

- Do not be vague. It is assumed that this is a nice person who you like and think positively of; otherwise you probably wouldn't be nominating them for an award.
- Do not write about the many positions the candidate holds unless you have personal experience working with the candidate in these roles and it is a part of the award criteria – holding a lot of positions doesn't always equate to excellent service.
- Do not make assumptions about the responsibilities of your candidate. Some positions may vary.
- Do not just look at a job description and tell us she/he does each of these things – these are considered part of the position, not above and beyond service.



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