



Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony

Saturday, June 17, 2017

Copley Symphony Hall
750 B Street
San Diego, CA 92101





Celebrating 100 years of changing the world

Girl Scouts San Diego's Troop 1 was founded in January 1917. Ever since then, Girl Scouts from San Diego and Imperial counties have been making meaningful, sustainable change in their communities and around the world.

The Gold Award — the culmination of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience — acknowledges the power behind each recipient's dedication to improving herself and the world. Just 5 percent of Girl Scouts nationwide earn this honor.

Achieving this distinction requires far more than just developing and implementing a community service project. Girl Scouts at the Senior and Ambassador levels typically spend one to two years completing this multifaceted process. The resulting Gold Award "Take Action" project demonstrates leadership when girls address the root cause of an issue; build and oversee a volunteer team; meet measurable goals; and change people's beliefs, attitudes, assumptions and behavior.

Based on their vision of change, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients make a commitment to their communities ... and fulfill it. They truly personify the Girl Scout Mission, becoming young women of courage, confidence and character, who have made the world a better place.

*A special thank you to all our volunteer leaders and
parents who take the time to make a difference in the
lives of young women.*

2017 Gold Award Committee

Anne Bader
Tracy Bracht
Sherri Charter
Tiffany Chatham Smith
Heather Dierolf
Marilyn Fullen
Jennipher Harris
Alison Lizarraga
Cora Long
Laura Perkins
Judy Pritchett
Jo Stahnke
Linda Wightman

Girl Scouts San Diego Staff Liaisons to the Gold Award Committee

Steph Dawes, Program Specialist
Imelda Castaneda, Troop Support Assistant

2017 Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony

Introduction of 2017 Gold Award Recipients

Mistress of Ceremonies
Proma Dewanjee
2016 Gold Award Recipient

Flag Ceremony
Girl Scout Troop 4069

Recognition of Support
Liza Crisafi

Keynote Speaker
Lorie Hearn

Council Address
Carol M. Dedrich, MBA, CFRE
Chief Executive Officer

Presentation of Awards
Jen Nation
Director of Program

Gold Award Charge and Closing
Carol M. Dedrich, MBA, CFRE
Chief Executive Officer

Girl Scouts San Diego Council Leadership



Regina Buckley
Chair, Board of Directors

Regina, a Girl Scout alumna, earned a BA in economics and political science from Yale University and a JD from the New York University School of Law. She spent her early legal career in private practice at prominent East Coast law firms before moving to California to continue her career as a corporate attorney in the legal departments of Solar Turbines, Inc. and Intel Corporation. Regina is dedicated to community service and has

assumed several leadership positions in nonprofit organizations throughout San Diego, including the Yale Club of San Diego, the North County San Diego Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. and Torrey Pines Elementary School Foundation. When she's not volunteering, she enjoys spending time with her husband and her daughter, a former Girl Scout.

Carol M. Dedrich
MBA, CFRE
Chief Executive Officer

A lifelong Girl Scout, Carol has a rich background in leadership, marketing, development and strategic planning, with over 15 years at the executive level in all three economic sectors: government/military, corporate and not-for-profit. She started her career as an officer in the U.S. Army and is a veteran of Desert Shield and Desert Storm. After transitioning to civilian life, she held executive level positions in a variety of organizations, including United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, John Wayne Cancer Institute and the Fulfillment Fund, a nonprofit that helps provide access to education for promising students who are economically disadvantaged. Carol served as the chief external relations officer for Girl Scouts Greater Los Angeles (GSLA) for seven years before coming to Girl Scouts San Diego.



2017 Girl Scout Gold Award Speakers

Lorie Hearn

Executive Director and Editor, inewssource

Lorie, a former Girl Scout and top cookie seller, began her media career in Pennsylvania, then worked beats at five newspapers on both coasts. Watchdog journalism was a priority during her nine years as metro editor of the San Diego Union-Tribune. Her reporters produced award-winning investigations covering large and small local governments. In 2009, she founded inewssource, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that does some of the region's most high-profile reporting. It has won eight national awards, a national Emmy nomination and many local honors. Lorie enjoys mentoring the journalists of the future. Girl Scouts San Diego honored her as a Cool Woman of 2017.



Liza Crisafi

Chief Investment Officer,
San Diego City Employees' Retirement System

Liza's career in investments began more than 30 years ago in South Bend, Indiana. She has a BA in Art History from the University of Notre Dame and an MBA from the Lake Forest Graduate School of Management. Liza is a member of the CFA Institute, Pensions West and Private Equity Women Investor Network, and has served on the board of the Peninsula Family YMCA and as a member of the Salvation Army's Planned Giving Committee. She is vice chair of Girl Scouts San Diego's Board of Directors, chairs Urban Campout: Celebrate 100 Years, and serves on our Investment Committee. Liza's two stepdaughters were Girl Scouts.



Girl Scout Gold Award Recipients



Anamaria Ancheta

From Hoops to Greatness

I ran a multifaceted basketball program for children in the South Bay area. The resources I developed include a packet on nutrition, stretching and exercise, as well as a basketball camp and clinic that provides free, healthy food.



Camila Antunes

Breast Cancer Awareness for Youth

To get teenagers and young adults involved in the search for a cure for breast cancer, I created a video documentary and brochure highlighting stories from survivors and ways youth can contribute. I distributed my video to local schools and other organizations.



Nichole Arm

Girls in STEAM

The books I wrote and illustrated show young girls that STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) are fun, exciting and not just for boys. I built an accompanying website and lesson plans, then presented my books to elementary school classes.



Nicolette Bahr

Pay It Forward Media

By training youth in multi-media skills, I helped them become more motivated and better prepared for both high school and work environments. Plus, they gained a positive outlet for their ideas and feelings.



Brittany Black

Literacy Project

Drawing on my passion for teaching, I established a tutoring program for students falling behind in school. My team and I tailored our instruction style to each child, giving them the support they needed to tackle their struggles with reading and other homework.



Emily Burghart

Challenging Community and Cultural Racism

I researched the refugee experience — why they come to America, and what they do here — and shared my findings with my high school's grade 9 geography classes. As a result, my school is seeing a less racially biased student body than it has in decades.



Morgan Butler

Acceptance at San Pasqual Academy

After learning that foster youth sometimes feel disconnected from their communities, I started a club to foster new bonds between students from San Pasqual Academy (a school for foster youth) and my own high school. The club engaged the two groups with events and activities.



Tera Cafo

Math Mania

My interactive, semester-long Math Club combined a summer camp vibe with a complex subject. By modeling and encouraging the teamwork and collaboration I learned at Girl Scout camp, I gave elementary school students a positive, meaningful way to study math.



Julia Camilleri

Creative Writing with Middle School Students

During my two 13-week creative writing courses for middle school youth, I coordinated author presentations and led workshops and critique groups. Participants improved their techniques, discovered new genres, and grew in confidence.



Elizabeth Carlson

Pause Before You Toss

I worked with the City of Oceanside to add recycling bins around my high school campus, then rallied volunteers to weigh out the trash and ensure students were using the bins properly. I also provided “Zero Waste” sessions, a survey and flyers.



Emily Cunningham

STAR Harmonics

Through my music program, I connected special education students with traditional learners while promoting freedom of expression and self-acceptance. The classes and assemblies I held delivered an engaging arts experience for all.



Aurora de Taqyos

Backyard Bounty

After noticing that fruit from trees in my neighborhood was going to waste, I organized and trained a team to harvest excess food from gardens. We gleaned 1,200 servings of fresh produce to donate to struggling families.



Hannah Elias

Art Therapy Club

High school students took care of their mental health in the art club I designed. The projects available included make-your-own stress balls, origami, coloring pages and finger paints, and allowed attendees to destress while exploring their opinions, aesthetics and emotions.



Alyssa Enriques

Hope for Moms

I involved my community in making care packages for new mothers whose babies are in the neonatal intensive care unit. My project raised awareness about the stressful, overwhelming nature of the NICU, and the gifts brought families joy during a difficult time.



Stephanie Fox

Huskies Grow and Go Green: Youth Gardening

To develop the afterschool gardening club at Hillsdale Middle School, I composed a science resource manual and planned a work day to build extra gardening boxes. I used the food the club grew to teach optimal nutrition as well as cooking skills.



Claire Granich

Mind on the Music

My musical therapy program provided mental and physical stimulation for residents of assisted living homes while strengthening their bonds with young musicians. I brought live music from the ‘40s-‘60s to local homes whose residents are living with Alzheimer’s and dementia.



Maia Hayden

Self Defense for Women

As a first-degree black belt and lifelong martial arts student, I am passionate about self-defense. I held classes for young women in high school and college, as well as women who have experience with assault, and made a video demonstrating basic moves.



Miranda Hernandez

Concussion and First Aid/CPR Training

I created a quick action tool to guide coaches in assessing injured players for concussions and communicating with parents. Additionally, I instructed teenagers on how to help their bodies heal and work with teachers for a successful return to school post-injury.



Torrey Hirning

Trash to Treasure

After learning that all of San Diego uses just one landfill, I educated children about landfill crowding, the environmental impact of their garbage, and recycling. I encouraged them to think before throwing something away, and showed them how to upcycle their trash.



Taylor Jaspering

Humane Society Awareness

The sympathy bags I made for those who use the Humane Society's euthanasia services supported and comforted people grieving for their pets. I studied the cognitive behavioral therapy model to optimize the bags' usefulness.



Brittany Jiang

Pride in the Cycle

Through my project, I prepared more than 100 reusable menstrual pad kits for girls in underdeveloped areas of Honduras. Plus, I shared with local communities the effect the lack of proper sanitation and information has on girls' school careers nationally and internationally.



Hannah Johnson

Destination DLI

I founded a club for Dual Language Immersion program participants in elementary school. I provided homework assistance, lessons on the cultures of Spanish-speaking nations, and inspiration to continue with their challenging — but relevant — DLI program.



Sidney Mar Johnson

SASS Camps: Confidence Through Surfing

My art, surf and safety camp addressed much more than surfing skills. Through this difficult sport, girls learned patience, determination and self-assurance. These qualities will serve them in school and other group settings.



Nora Joyce

Leadership Through Lacrosse

The Preuss School, which serves students from lower income families, didn't have middle school or junior varsity lacrosse teams. I set up beginner-level clinics where girls got a head start toward the confidence, strength and can-do spirit playing varsity will bring them.



Emma Kahn

Increase Adoption of Black Cats

Because black cats in shelters are often overlooked for adoption due to superstitious biases, I worked to decrease stigma surrounding these lovable animals. As I did so, I pushed community members to consider giving a black cat a forever home.



Elizabeth Kerrigan

Healthy Snacks for Kids

I channeled my own interest in nutrition and healthy eating to teach young people about their food options. During my classes, children completed no-cook recipes and learned that as easy as it is to grab processed food, making something from scratch is within their reach.



Maya Kota

The Pen is Mightier than the Sword

My writing workshops prepared middle school students to write for the real world. Moving beyond the essay formats they already master in class, I showed them how to author news pieces, short stories, lab reports, opinion articles and personal statements.



Rachel Lian

Our Scoliosis Story

I wrote a book and designed a website to tell my story of being diagnosed with and treated for scoliosis. They include advice, x-rays and pictures documenting the recovery process, and I distributed them to several San Diego hospitals to provide information and hope to others.



Kelly Luong

Big Sister Program

Drawing on my bond with my own sister, I started a club to match high school juniors with incoming freshmen. The older girls engendered a kind, friendly, supportive space to help the 9th-graders make the transition to high school.



Laura Matista

Inspirational Garden

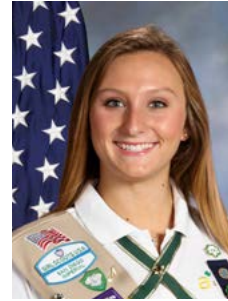
I transformed a neglected garden at Rady Children's Hospital into an inspirational and drought-resistant garden for patients, families, nurses and staff. As a bonus, I worked with kids to make colorful decorations and incorporated milkweed to attract endangered monarch butterflies.



Rianna McMahon

Art Program

Partnering with the Therapeutic Learning Center — a school for youth who, like me, have audio processing disabilities — I designed an art program that served the unique needs of their student body and integrated it into their elementary school curriculum.



Victoria Rose Meek

Special Olympics Aquatics Program

I developed the first-ever volunteer training course for Special Olympics San Diego's aquatics program, recruiting and instructing 60 volunteers to support the athletes during their annual spring games. I also secured three additional training sites for competitors.



Lauren Mello

The Fiber Arts Project

Over two years, I taught the art and history of crochet during weekly classes at locations across San Diego, including animal ranches, commercial stores and fairs. Covering traditions from multiple countries, I demonstrated that fiber arts can be affordable and easy.



Kara Miller

Making Memories

To engage senior citizens and brighten their days, I rounded up a team to visit two local assisted living facilities and spend time with residents. I offered activities like bingo and puzzles, and read and chatted with individuals.



Tanya Miranda

Animal Care

My bilingual coloring book and presentations empowered children under age 10 to lead the way in reducing animal abuse. With what they discovered about pets' needs and proper care, they can become mentors to their siblings and relatives.



Kylie Mulvehill

Empowering Young Cooks

On the cooking blog I started, I produced 20 recipes for healthy snacks, lunches and treats that grade K-8 students can make. Then I put the recipes into a cookbook and shared it with local elementary and middle schools, one of which incorporated the book into its curriculum.



Zoë Navapanich

Middle School Speech and Debate

I wrote and disseminated a curriculum to give middle school students foundational skills in public speaking, including essential research skills, speech and essay writing, and exercises. I put my plan into action with a club I founded.



Kylie Necochea

Forget Me Not: Plays, Pamphlets and Playlists

High school students connected with dementia patients at two elder care facilities over the course of my project. Our offerings included music therapy, live performances and personalized playlists for residents.



Kara Nepomuceno

The Student Stress-Release Workshop

Through an online resource guide and a series of after-school workshops, I equipped youth in grades 6-8 with the tools to fight stress. Each week, they learned a new stress-release method and began to develop wholesome attitudes and coping behaviors.



Miranda Ng

Mission: RoboLion

I began a robotics team at my high school, addressing a lack of STEM extracurriculars in my district. Technology continues to grow in prominence as a career field, and participating in activities like this generates interest and hones capabilities.



Natalie Oakes

Water Safety Awareness

Drawing on my experience as a lifeguard and water safety instructor, I showed preschoolers what steps they can take to keep from getting hurt. Topics included noticing dangerous objects, identifying lifeguards, putting on life vests and designing their own safe pool.



Flora Perlmutter

Project BYOB — Bring Your Own Bag

I educated groups from elementary schools to senior citizens about California's plastic bag ban and the importance of reusable bags. In addition, I distributed more than 1,100 donated reusable bags to families who might not be able to afford them.



Natalia Pinpin

Japanese Culture Lessons

After going to Japan during an exchange program, I wanted to impart what I had learned about the culture. By informing local grade 6 classes about Japanese culture, I fostered the tolerance for diversity today's world needs.



Taylor Ann Quick

Interactive Meeting Place

In renovating the youth center at Christie's House, an HIV/AIDs resource, I gave adolescents a safe, comforting and enjoyable place to interact with others facing the same challenges they are. I upgraded the facilities with electronics so they can complete homework there, too.



Elena Rodriguez

Girl Empowerment Mural

With a volunteer team, I painted an empowering mural to inspire girls at Hickman Elementary to be more confident and love themselves. I decorated the school with quotes from a diverse array of women and led a workshop for the grade 4 girls.



Charlotte Schmidt

ElderHelp Instagramandmas and Instagrampas

The Instagram account I created for ElderHelp San Diego became a valuable tool to raise awareness and recruit volunteers. I interviewed seniors and shared their stories on the social media platform and in presentations.



Elise Serrano

Sparking an Interest in STEM

I used SnapCircuits to teach young children about electricity. By introducing them to STEM concepts at an early age, I gave them a leg up in an important field, and a chance to develop a passion for science.



Hannah Smith

Stabilize It!

Letting students sit on stability balls can improve focus; with the spine aligned, more oxygen flows to the brain. I researched the subject, met with teachers, and provided donated balls to six classes. As a result, my district is looking at purchasing more for local schools.



Kirstyn Smith

SeniorTopia

It hurt me to see lonely senior home residents every time I visited my grandmother. I ran activities at different homes: chair yoga, drawing, painting, movie nights, crafts and interactive games. The residents were very excited, and it enhanced their friendships with each other.



Bridget Stephenson

Help For Hope

I assembled a task force to spread awareness of human trafficking and prevention methods, reaching more than 1,000 San Diegans. Members raised funds to support the local survivors with rehabilitation, special events and an emergency safe house.



Jenna Sylvia

Operation Making Friends

As a member of a military family myself, I know how hard it can be to make friends when you're constantly moving to new schools. I wrote a rhyming book, *Friends on All Ends*, and presented it during afterschool programs to encourage children to connect with military kids.



Lauren Taylor

STEMpowerment Workshops

Under my leadership, middle school girls explored science, technology, engineering and math through puzzles and challenges, and met women working in STEM fields. Plus, I renovated space at Mission Bay High School for robotics and engineering studies.



Rajsri Umesh

Dream Dancing: Education and Culture

I taught my peers about different aspects of Indian culture, including day-to-day life, celebrations, clothing, food and dance. After a few months of Bollywood dance lessons, we performed at the Janmashtmi San Diego Festival and at a women's shelter.



Bridgette Usher

Safety for Runners and Bikers

In my community, many roads have blind corners and hills that make every turn a danger to pedestrians. I installed several caution signs and provided a refresher course and video on basic DMV regulations regarding pedestrians' rights.



Amira Walia

Career Corner Club

By hosting career club meetings at my high school, I showed young women many different fields they could enter and urged their male peers to promote women's advancement in the professional world. Guest speakers demonstrated real-life evidence of female success.



*Congratulations,
2017 Gold Award recipients!*

Girl Scout Mission

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

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.

* The word "God" can be interpreted in a number of ways, depending on one's spiritual beliefs. When reciting the Girl Scout Promise, it is OK to replace the word "God" with whatever word your spiritual beliefs dictate.

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.



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