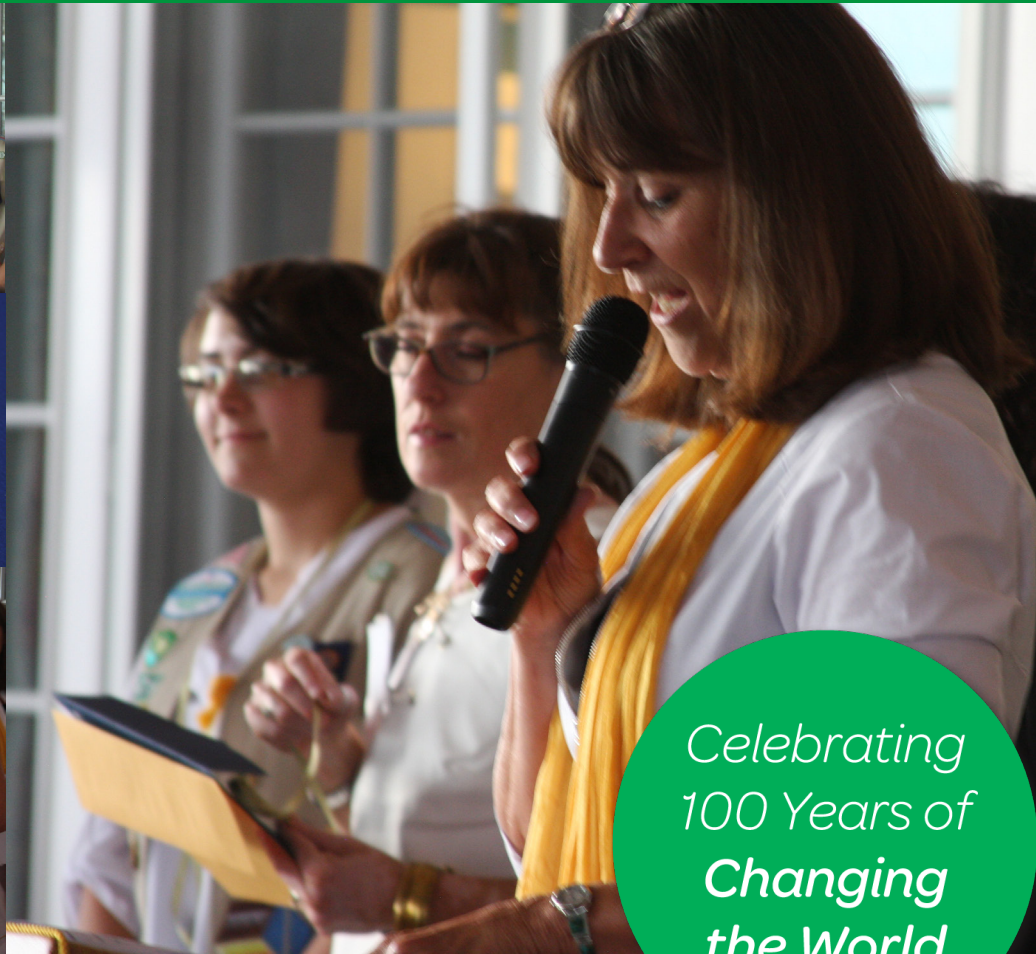


Connections

Gold Award Centennial Special Edition

August 2016



*Celebrating
100 Years of
Changing
the World*

This year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Girls Changing the World. Starting in 1916, the best and brightest have undertaken projects to improve their communities—and the world. The award has changed names, with the Golden Eaglet, Curved Bar Award, First Class, or the Gold Award, but the impact has been the same with Award recipients demonstrating extraordinary leadership and vision to create new opportunities and programs that positively impact society.

Bronze. Silver. Gold. These represent the highest honors a Girl Scout can earn.

All three awards give you the chance to do big things while working on an issue you care about. Whether you want to plant a community garden at your school and inspire others to eat healthily for your Bronze, advocate for animal rights for your Silver, or build a career network that encourages girls to become scientists and engineers for your Gold, you'll inspire others (and yourself).

As you earn one of Girl Scouting's highest awards, you'll change your corner of the world—and maybe even beyond. The possibilities are endless. Earning the Gold Award is just one of the amazing things girls can do as part of Girl Scouts. To join Girl Scouts or learn more about volunteering, please visit www.girlscouts.org/join.

INSIDE...

CEO Message
GSNMT Leadership & Mission Delivery
The History of Girl Scouting
The Highest Awards
Gold Award Centennial Celebration
2015-2016 Gold Awardees

Meet the GSNMT Award Liaison
Building Leadership Skills
Mentoring Awards
Community Service & Take Action
A Gold Award Journey
How We Encourage Girls

Bronze Award & Silver Award Gold
Award FAQ & Benefits
Other Ways to Take Action
Gold Awardees, 1980-2016
Donors & Sponsors



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Mission Delivery

As Girl Scouts, we belong to this powerful organization of—and for—girls. The Girl Scout Mission, Promise, and Law speak to the vision we all share for girls and inspire each of us to work on behalf of tomorrow's leaders. The Girl Scout Promise and Law express the enduring ethical values and spiritual force of the Girl Scout Movement.



Building girls of
courage, confidence,
and character,
who make the world
a better place.

Gold Award Committee

The Gold Award Committee (GAC) was established to assist the council in performing the duties and responsibilities of administering the Gold Award, the highest honor a girl can receive in Girl Scouts. The GAC is committed to the support of Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts in the pursuit of the Gold Award and ensuring that the plans submitted for Gold Award take action projects are acceptable and within the guidelines of GSUSA and the New Mexico Trails Council.

The GAC is comprised of women from across our council that are dedicated to mentoring and providing guidance, resources, & support to girls interested in earning their Gold Award. The time and dedication these women give to girls is inspiring to see. We are committed to insuring that every girl working toward her Gold Award will achieve this prestigious award. The GAC meets every second Thursday of the month at 5:30pm and we are continuously looking for more women volunteers to join our committee. If interested in volunteering for the GAC or for more information on the Gold Award program contact Vanessa Wheeler vwheeler@nmgirlscouts.org.

Thank you! Thank you to the dedicated members of the Gold Award Committee: Becky Hunt, Jennifer Rowland, Karen Cushnyr, Karen Schafer, Lisa Dignan, Lisa Rogers, Pamelya Herndon, Rikki Quintana, Sarah Shields, Cynthia Gonzales, and GSNMT Staff Liaison Vanessa Wheeler. The committee's time, efforts, and commitment to our girls working toward the Gold is greatly appreciated!

The History of Girl Scouting

Juliette Gordon Low envisioned an organization that would prepare girls to meet their world with courage, confidence, and character.

In 1912, in the midst of the Progressive Era—and at a time when women in the United States couldn't yet vote—this nearly deaf 51-year-old sparked a worldwide movement inspiring girls to embrace, together, their individuality, strength, and intellect.

Juliette, affectionately known as “Daisy” by her family and close friends, gathered 18 girls in her hometown of Savannah, Georgia, to share what she had learned abroad about a new outdoor and educational program for youth, and with this, the Girl Scout Movement was born. Along with Juliette, these first Girl Scouts blazed trails and redefined what was possible for themselves and for girls everywhere.

They played basketball. They hiked, swam, and camped. They learned to read the world around them—for instance, by studying a foreign language and telling time by the stars. They shared a sense of curiosity and a belief that they could do anything.

But most importantly, just like Girl Scouts across the country and around the globe today, they offered a helping hand to those in need and worked together to improve their corner of the world.

That small gathering of girls Juliette Gordon Low hosted over a century ago has grown into a global movement in which all girls can see themselves reflected—and that today includes nearly 3 million Girl Scouts in 92 countries and more than 59 million alumnae, united across distance and decades by lifelong friendships, shared adventures, and the desire to do big things to make the world a better place.

The Highest Award in Girl Scouting

Girl Scout's highest award was created in 1916, and has gone through numerous changes over the years.

The Golden Eagle of Merit, the highest award in Girl Scouting from 1916 to 1919, marked the beginning of a long tradition of recognizing girls who make a difference in their communities with a prestigious award. The names have changed, but the meaning stays the same:

First was the Golden Eaglet of Merit and then the Golden Eaglet, the highest award in Girl Scouting from 1916 to 1939. This marked the beginning of a long tradition of recognizing the extraordinary efforts of extraordinary girls. The founder of Girl Scouts, Juliette Gordon Low, wrote in November 1923: “The five requirements for winning the Golden Eaglet are character, health, handicraft, happiness and service, and that others will expect to find in our Golden Eaglet a perfect specimen of girlhood: mentally, morally, and physically.”

From 1938-1940, girls worked toward the First Class.

From 1940 to 1963, the Curved Bar Award was the highest honor in Girl Scouting. This award was earned by Intermediate Scouts who had already earned the First Class Award, and was the way to bridge to Senior rank. Because of the shortage of metal during WWII, at first the award was a curved embroidered patch worn on the uniform. In 1947, the Curved Bar pin was introduced.

And from 1963 to 1980, the highest award was called First Class.

And since 1980, the Gold Award has inspired girls to find the greatness inside themselves and share their ideas and passions with their communities.



**Scouting rises
within you and
inspires you
to put forth
your best.**

Juliette Gordon Low



Golden Eagle of Merit
1916



Golden Eaglet
1916-1939



First Class
1938-1940
1963-1980



Curved Bar
1940-1963



Gold Award
1980-current



Gold Award
2016 special edition

Gold Award Centennial Celebration

June 22, 2016 Governor's Mansion, Santa Fe

2016 is a momentous year for the Girl Scouts as it marks 100 years of girls changing the world! Since 1916, Girl Scouts have been making meaningful, sustainable change in their communities and around the world. The Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn, acknowledges the power behind each recipient's dedication to not only empowering and bettering herself, but also to making the world a better place for others. These young women are courageous leaders and visionary change makers. They are our future, and it looks bright!

Girl Scouts, community leaders, families, and friends joined us recently as the Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails marked this anniversary our Gold Centennial Celebration at the Governor's Mansion in Santa Fe. Our celebration featured keynote speaker Monique Jacobson, Cabinet Secretary for CYFD and inspirational speaker Getrude Matche.

Four Gold Awardees were recognized for their significant leadership in their communities, where they identified and then addressed an issue.

- Mary Coleman
- Delaney Heileman
- Delanie Montoya
- Jesica Santino

For our Gold Awardees, the leadership skills, organizational skills, sense of community, and commitment that come from "going for the Gold" set the foundation for a lifetime of active citizenship.

Thank you to our generous hosts, speakers, special guests, and sponsors who helped make this a special day for our Gold Awardees and for the Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails.



Ours is a circle of friendships united by ideals.

Juliette Gordon Low

**Girls who Go Gold can go *anywhere* they want!
Congratulations to all honorees from New Mexico Mutual!**



Thank you to our event sponsor:

New Mexico Mutual works to ensure a better future for all New Mexicans, providing financial support and volunteer service to charitable organizations across the state. We're New Mexico owned and operated--and strongly committed to improving the health and well-being of our fellow citizens.



A Tree for the Future
*Every spring
 The sap rises in the trees
 From root to branch
 And makes a tree that looks dead
 Blossom with green leaves
 And life.
 So it is that the Scouting Spirit
 Rises within you and
 Inspires you to put forth
 Your best.*

Juliette Gordon Low



*Celebrating 100 Years
 of Changing the World*



2015-2016 Gold Awardees

The Girl Scout Gold Award

Since 1916, Girl Scouts have been making meaningful, sustainable change in their communities and around the world. The Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn, acknowledges the power behind each recipient's dedication to not only empowering and bettering herself, but also to making the world a better place for others.



Delanie Montoya For the Love of Art

Delanie's project addressed the loss of art education in elementary schools. She worked with elementary school students and teachers at Lydia Rippey Elementary School in Aztec, NM. By using her love of art and her leadership skills, she introduced various art projects to the students. With support from the school, they hope to keep this program sustainable by using high school art students to teach art classes in the future.

Mary Coleman OPA! Organization – Preparation – Achievement

Mary used her love of organization as the starting point for her Gold Award project. She recognized that poor organizational skills can easily cripple a person's academics and can cause stress. To help students become better organized and to help them succeed in school, Mary created a program promoting organizational skills, provided to students at Aztec High School and Bloomfield High School. OPA will continue to be used at the Aztec High School by students and each teacher has access to it.

Delaney Heileman Growing the Future,

Mission Ave. Elementary School Garden

Recognizing that students often lack education on where food comes from beyond the grocery store, Delaney designed a school garden to educate students about agriculture through hands-on learning. The garden will be used to teach Common Core Standards and Next Gen Science Standards. In addition, Delaney incorporated a "Smart Garden" where the garden is monitored by a microprocessor that shows the students moisture levels and temperature through graphs. The technology used will allow students to see innovative ways to use technological resources while also getting hands-on experience with analyzing data.



Jesica Santino Sensory Trail

Jesica Santino recognized that every day, millions of people with special needs aren't included in the most basic of activities because the people around them aren't patient enough to help them. They miss out on the fundamental experiences of life simply because it's a little bit harder for them. Jesica's project was to create a sensory trail at Loving Thunder Therapeutic Riding.



Gold Award FAQs and Benefits

Gold Award recipients on average spend one to two years on their projects.

Since 1916, one million girls have earned the Gold Award or its equivalent.

A girl who earns the Girl Scout Gold Award joins an elite circle of fewer than **6%** of Girl Scouts annually, and may be eligible for advanced rank when enlisting in the U.S. Armed Forces, or for scholarships at some universities and colleges;

Since 2007, there have been **46** Girl Scouts in the New Mexico Trails council who have earned the Gold Award.

GSNMT provides scholarship opportunities for Gold Awardees.

70% strongly feel they lead a purposeful and meaningful life, compared with 42% of non-alumnae.

98% are happy with their life, compared with 87% of non-alumnae.

95% feel they have had success in life, compared with 82% of non-alumnae.

70% are very active in volunteer work/community service, compared with 41% of non-alumnae.

Meet our Award Liaison & Program Manager

Vanessa Wheeler has a long Girl Scout background, two years as a Brownie Girl Scout (check out the photo of her in her Brownie uniform below!) and then ten years as a Girl Scout staff member, with Sangre de Cristo and now with New Mexico Trails. For the last several years, Vanessa has been a Program Manager and Award Liaison for the council.

We asked Vanessa a few questions to get to know her better...here is what she shared:

I grew up in Santa Fe and lived in Tesuque Pueblo all my life. I had the opportunity to attend a private Catholic school where I was first introduced to Girl Scouts. I was the only Girl Scout in my pueblo for many years. This allowed me to sell many boxes of cookies! I was the top seller in 1980! I know that my now go-to attitude can be attributed to my marketing and selling skills as a young girl selling Girl Scout cookies. My parents did not take any initiative in my sales or distribution, they did the best thing for me by pushing & encouraging me to get out there and make my sales. This has allowed me to be the go-getter I am today.

I most certainly do love my job! I appreciate the flexibility to be behind a desk or out in the community talking "Girl Scouts" and promoting what fabulous things/ideas girls are coming up with or even better the opportunity to just hang out with girls and hear their voices, laughter, opinions & how they want to change the world. I appreciate the opportunities that I can make a difference in a young girl's life. I love that I have a network of community that can help me to support girls and provide them the resources they will need to succeed in their future! I love that in Girl Scouts I was always in a safe place and there was no regard for failure and this still holds true today.

What Vanessa loves about being the Award Liaison: I feel I fell into the high awards program by accident, not really knowing what the program was about, I was inspired as I began to hear the stories of the girls take action projects. As I now know everything there is to know about these awards, I am inspired to educate girls and the community about the benefits & importance of earning these awards. I get excited when I know I am going to train a group of girls because I am eager to hear their inspiring stories and reasoning's as to why they want to take action in their communities. If I could touch every girl with my message about these high honor awards we would probably be living in a different world!

And, Vanessa's message to girls thinking about working on their Bronze, Silver, or Gold: The stars are yours.....you just have to make that reach and grab opportunities when you can! The world is yours to change and make a difference and you can do this by participating in Girl Scouts and earning the high awards Bronze, Silver, & Gold! It will bring you lasting memories and opportunities that we may not see coming! Go forward and Take Action!



Learn more about the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Awards:

check out our website: nmgirlscouts.org Programs / Highest Awards or, email VWheeler@nmgirlscouts.org



96%

of Gold Award Girls credit Girl Scouts with providing leadership opportunities they couldn't get elsewhere



Building a Foundation of Leadership Skills

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience encompasses everything we know and love about Girl Scouts – troops, camp, patches, cookies, etc. – and enhances these elements with critical leadership processes and outcomes.

All experiences in Girl Scouting incorporate the Discover, Connect, and Take Action keys to leadership. Girls Discover themselves and their values and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world. They Connect with other girls and adults. And, they Take Action to make the world a better place.

Developing into a purposeful leader is as much about the journey as the destination. Throughout their experience, girls develop a variety of skills and characteristics, such as positive values, conflict resolution abilities and resourceful problem solving skills. The long term result is a generation of girls who lead with courage, confidence and character.

Girls will use two resources to get the most out of their Girl Scout experience– their Journey Book, there are three series to select from, and the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting for their age level. A Journey is a coordinated set of leadership activities grouped around a theme. Girls earn their Journey Leadership Awards as they progress through the Journey book. In the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting, girls earn badges which teach them skills on specific topics.

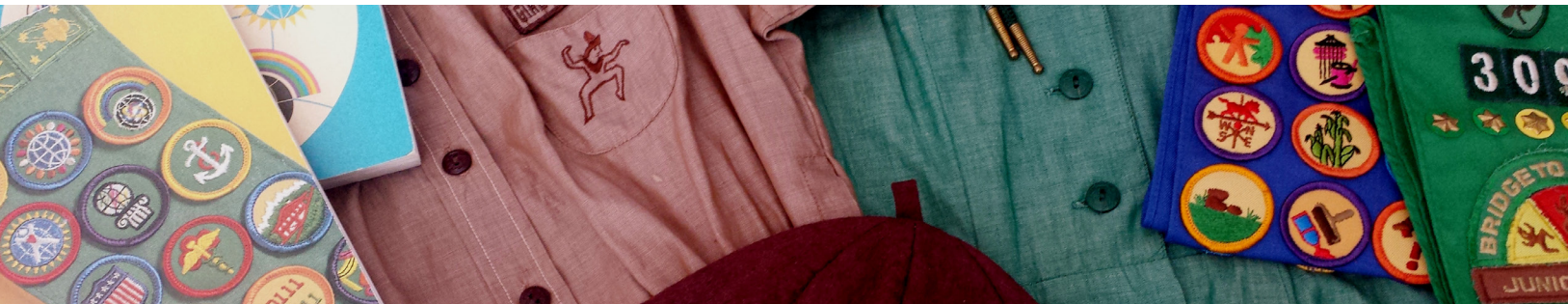
Discover. Girls understand themselves, their values, and their world.

Connect. Girls care about, inspire, and team with others.

Take Action. Girls act to make the world a better place.

Badges are not medals to be worn on your sleeve to show what a smart girl you are. A badge is a symbol that you have done the thing it stands for often enough, thoroughly enough, and well enough to be prepared to give service in it. You wear the badge to let people know that you are prepared and willing to be called on because you are a Girl Scout.

Juliette Gordon Low



Mentoring Awards

Girls Exercise their leadership skills through mentoring

When you guide people or teach them something you know, you're being a mentor. Girl Scout Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors have the opportunity to earn awards for being mentors.

Juniors can earn the Junior Aide award by making a completing a plan to guide Girl Scout Daisies or Brownies on one of their journeys.

Cadettes can earn the Leader in Action (LiA) award and Cadette Program Aide award. You can earn the LiA award by assisting a Brownie group on any of their journeys. To earn the Cadette Program Aide award, you will earn one LiA award, complete the council program aide training, and then work with younger girls for six activity sessions.

Seniors can earn the Counselor-in-Training (CIT) award or the Volunteer-in-Training (VIT) award. CIT is designed for you to mentor younger girls in a camp setting as you build skills toward becoming a camp counselor. VIT is for girls who would like to mentor a Girl Scout Daisy, Brownie, Junior or Cadette group outside of the camp experience.

Ambassadors can earn the Counselor-in-Training I, the Counselor-in-Training II, or the Volunteer-in-Training award. CIT I is designed for you to mentor younger girls in a camp setting as you build skills toward becoming a camp counselor. CIT II builds on the CIT I experience as you focus on increasing your skills in one specific area such as riding instruction, lifeguarding, or the arts. VIT is for girls who would like to mentor a Girl Scout Daisy, Brownie, Junior or Cadette group outside of the camp experience.



Community Service, Take Action

As Girl Scouts, girls discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together. Girls grow courageous and strong through a wide variety of enriching experiences, such as field trips, skill-building sports clinics, community service projects, cultural exchanges, and environmental stewardships.

In Girl Scouts, GIRLS CHANGE THE WORLD!

Girls Change the world through community service and through take action projects.

- **Community Service projects** address an issue and provide a short-term solution, with a short term impact. For example, Abby and her troop decide to help an uninsured family who lost their home in a fire, this is the issue. The troop's solution is to collect clothes, household goods, and food for the family.
- **Take Action projects** identify the root cause of the issue and have long-term benefits and sustainable support. To make their project sustainable, Abby and her troop Organize community groups and/or community members to establish an ongoing clothes closet for families facing a crisis.

Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts can earn Community Service and Service to Girl Scouting Bars.



Community Service Bar

Community Service Bars are earned by making a difference in the community and practicing Girl Scout values.



Service to Girl Scouting Bar

Service to Girl Scouting bars are earned by volunteering at least 20 hours for the Girl Scouts.



Learn more about the Community Service and Service to Girl Scouting Bars:

Refer to the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting or contact your membership staff person

Make Your Change Sustainable

There are many ways to make your project sustainable over time. There is progression and expectations for sustainability are more complex as you bridge up to new levels in Girl Scouts. Girl Scout Juniors work on their Bronze Award and reflect on how the project could be kept going. Girl Scout Cadettes plan for sustainability. Seniors and Ambassadors work to ensure the sustainability of their project in order to meet the Gold Award standards of excellence.

Girl Scout Gold Award projects are not "one shot"—they create lasting change. You can ensure a lasting project by setting clear timelines, collaborating with community organizations, building alliances with adults and mentors, and keeping good records. Sustainability often involves influencing others to pitch in.

For a Silver or Gold Award project to be sustainable, it must create opportunities for other people to volunteer for or expand on the project in the future. While a Silver Award project could be sustainable when it teaches others a new skill or plan for sustainability.

Girls will use two resources to get the most out of their Girl Scout experience— their Journey Book, there are three series to select from, and the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting for their age level. A Journey is a coordinated set of leadership activities grouped around a theme. Girls earn their Journey Leadership Awards as they progress through the Journey book. In the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting, girls earn badges which teach them skills on specific topics.

Here are just a few example of creating sustainable projects.

- Partner with a local community organization who will continue your work.
- Think about groups that already exist in your area like teachers at your school, master gardeners, a sports team, a club at school, conservation boards, city council, other volunteer or service organizations.
- Add an educational component. When you teach others about the community need your project addresses, you can raise awareness and support. An educational component can teach attitudes or knowledge, you can have a big impact on their behavior like encouraging them to recycle more or teaching them to be responsible pet owners.
- Make it into a video or a blog. Have you ever heard about a YouTube video going viral awesome if that was a video about your Highest Awards project?
- Form a committee who can repeat your project on an annual basis. Do you know about projects like Relay for Life or the Polar Plunge? These projects are sustainable because they happen again and again every year. Usually, a committee of people work together to plan the annual event. If you start a committee now, they can continue your project next year. And then the current committee members can select new volunteers to join the committee for the year after that. This way, there would always be new people working together to address your cause.
- Host a volunteer fair or special event to raise awareness and get other people involved
- Work with your Girl Scout team and other community members to come up with a different creative idea

A Gold Award Journey



Isabel Rodriguez

**Exploratory Outdoor Classroom, Nava Elementary School
Gold Award Project, in progress**

Three years ago, 17 year old Isabel Rodriguez embarked upon a project that would give students at Nava Elementary School in Santa Fe a non-traditional learning area—an Exploratory Outdoor Classroom. Isabel considers Nava Elementary to be her “home.” Isabel has been a fixture at this school since she was three weeks old, as a tag-a-long with her parents (both are teachers at Nava), as a student, and now as a Girl Scout taking action to provide the school with a valuable resource.

Nava Elementary is home to 240 kindergarten through 6th graders. These students have significant economic and educational challenges that include 100% of students receiving free or reduced price lunches, 25% are homeless, and 17% have special education needs.

Several years ago, Isabel was starting to think about what she would do for her Gold Award project. She considered several projects. Because the Gold Award project requirements include spending at least 80 hours on the project, girls are encouraged to identify a project they are really excited and passionate about. Isabel found her inspiration for her project at this school

she calls home. She noticed that the outdoor area in the middle of the classrooms was grown up and never used, but with some work, she thought that this area could be a great asset to the teachers as an outdoor learning area. Isabel thought about the possibilities for the space, she talked to teachers and the principal to see if this idea was valid, she collected resources and applied for grants to make it happen, and she made plans to keep it going.

Isabel recognized that many other schools in the area receive the most up-to-date technology and resources, great benefits for students at those schools. Isabel wanted students at Nava to have something special, too. While the economic and educational obstacles at Nava Elementary could have appeared insurmountable, she viewed these obstacles as the driving force behind her project. When the Exploratory Outdoor Classroom plan started coming together, Isabel viewed it is a tremendous asset for the Nava students, an opportunity to have a non-traditional, hands-on learning environment not available at other schools.

About the Exploratory Outdoor Classroom

The Exploratory Outdoor Classroom consists of several learning spaces, separated by landscaped mulch paths and aspen trees, allowing for small group activities to be separate, yet contained in this outdoor space. The areas include a water table, discovery station, magnetic table, and open space. Added features to the outdoor classroom to engage the students include hands-on, interactive activities, whiteboards for the students to write or draw on, and hand painted murals. Teachers utilizing this outdoor space with their students have access to activity bins with art supplies, magnifying glasses, water exploration toys, magnets, and more. Isabel has also created age-appropriate curriculum for the teachers to use for each aspect of this space.

This outdoor classroom offers a safe space for students to study and explore science and nature in a natural setting while they plant seeds, observe insects, and learn about weather patterns. This area also serves as a gathering place for class meetings, the homeschooling program, and scout troops. Isabel hopes that this outdoor classroom will help students learn to love and take care of nature, get them interested in science, and to learn to have a deeper knowledge of and care for nature and the environment around them.

Isabel worked for three years to get approval and to collect the necessary resources for this Exploratory Outdoor Classroom. She worked with the school administration to apply for and receive a grant from Partners in Education. She talked to each of the teachers at Nava to request leftover and extra supplies. And the 5th and 6th grade students surprised her by donating the extra funds they had raised for a trip, but did not need. Isabel also created the tables and chairs, herself. She developed carpentry skills, researched, and tested out designs for tables and chairs. What Isabel enjoyed the most about this three year project was getting so many people involved, including her Girl Scout troop and their families, the school administration, the 5th and 6th grade students, and many more.

All of this did not come easily, however. Isabel found challenges regarding red tape from the school district and then environmental obstacles. In the end, it was a great learning opportunity, as well as a test in patience and determination that has paid off. The school and community definitely came together to support this effort, giving the students at Nava Elementary an amazing outdoor classroom. Students attending the summer program at Nava this summer were able to test out the Exploratory Outdoor Classroom and loved it! Isabel will be providing a walkthrough and training demonstration of the Exploratory Outdoor Classroom for Nava Elementary teachers so they know what resources are available and feel comfortable incorporating this into their regular curriculum.



How did a 17 year old make this happen?

Isabel credits Girl Scouts (and her parents!) with providing her leadership skills. She started Girl Scouts in kindergarten as a 5 year old. Through Girl Scouts and working on her Gold Award, she has developed many lifelong skills, including leadership, social skills, persistence, and patience. Asking for donations was tough, but through practicing with those close to her, she is now able to ask with confidence.

Inspiration and advice from Isabel

Isabel hopes others will be inspired to make a positive change in their community. When you choose to make a difference, she urges to get feedback, don't just rely on your own ideas of what needs to be done. Ask what the needs are; don't just assume that you know the needs. Collaborate. Work with others to get their ideas, their expertise, and their experience to make your project even better.

On a personal note, I remember meeting Isabel with her troop members and her father (their troop leader) about eight years ago. The girls in the troop wanted to go on a trip. Their troop leader brought them in to our Girl Scout office and had the girls share what they wanted to do, ask what forms they needed to fill out, and then ask what other safety and travel issues they needed to consider. The girls were encouraged and empowered to ask questions, make decisions, and develop their leadership skills at a young age. This exemplifies what Girl Scouts does for girls at a young age and it directly contributed to Isabel becoming a change maker, taking action to make a difference in the life of the 240 students at Nava today and for future students. Who knows, maybe her story here will inspire YOU to make a difference in your community!



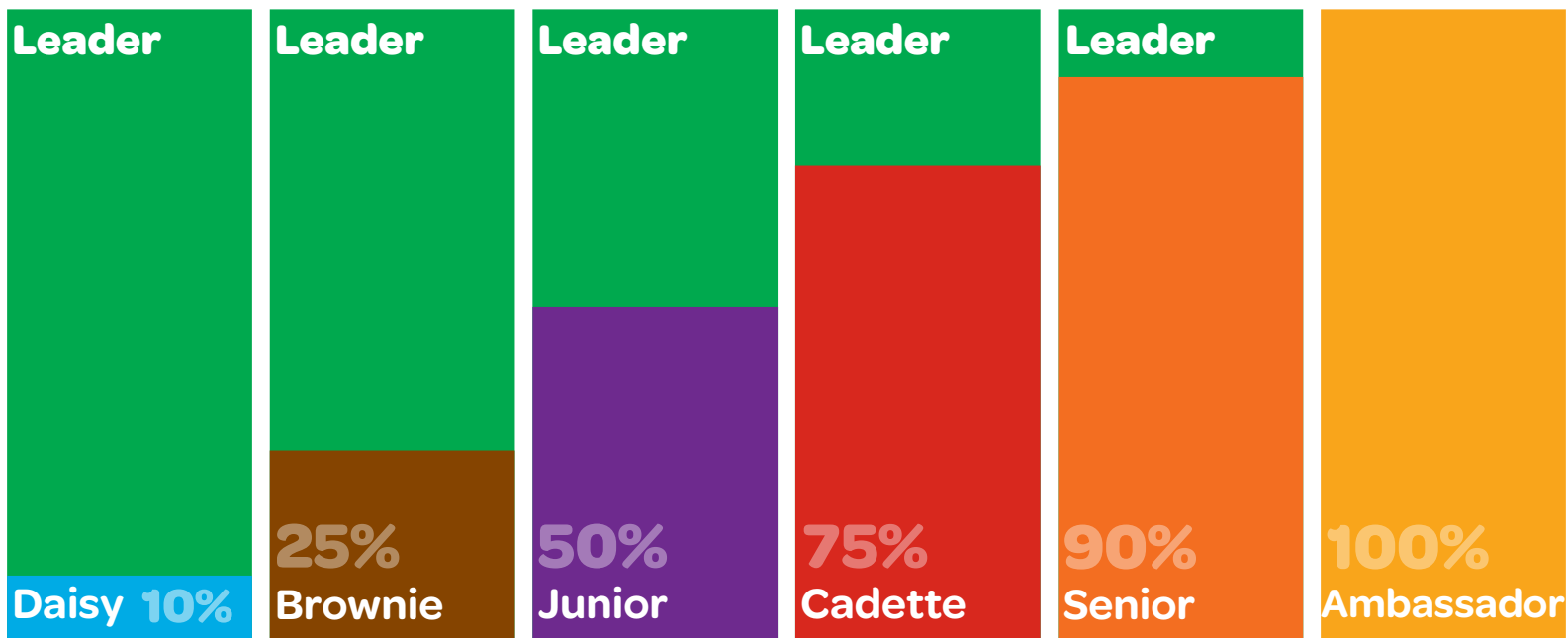
Isabel sharing her Gold Award Project with attendees at the 100th Anniversary of Girls Changing the World event. Isabel is on target to receive her Gold Award at the next Awards Ceremony on November 12.

How We Encourage Girls to Lead and Take Action

As a Girl Scout, there are lots of ways to have fun, make friends, and do things that have a positive impact on your life, your school, and your world. In Grades K-5, Girl Scouts earn badges, join a troop, hike and camp, and participate in the cookie program. In middle- and high school, girls can also explore careers in science and technology, travel the world, discover nature, and take on projects that transform their community.

But at every level, Girl Scouts have fun while making the world a better place!

Activities, badges, roles, and expectations change with each age level to ensure progression; badges and activities become more involved, girls will take more ownership of troop activities, and leaders will delegate leadership increasingly to the girls. Following is a chart demonstrating the decreased leadership role of the adult leader and the increased leadership of the girls.



- Daisy - talks with leaders about their ideas for activities. Girls lead 10% - leaders 90%
- Brownie - brainstorm ideas and leaders help determine which are possible. Girls lead 25% - leaders 75%
- Junior - develop ideas they like best and leaders help girls realize their goals. Girls lead 50% - leaders 50%
- Cadette - take larger role in planning and decision making as adults help when necessary. Girls lead 75% - leaders 25%
- Senior - decide what they want to do and how to do it. Leaders are advisers who help as needed. Girls lead 90% - leaders 10%
- Ambassadors - lead the way, plan activities, budgets, and goals. Advisers guide and help as needed. Girls lead 100%

Bronze Award

Welcome to the Girl Scout Bronze Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can achieve. As you and your team plan and complete your project, you'll meet new people and have the kind of fun that happens when you work with other Girl Scouts to make a difference.

The Girl Scout Bronze Award is the highest honor that a Junior Girl Scout can earn. It requires her to learn the leadership and planning skills necessary to follow through on a project of her choice that makes a positive impact in the community. Working toward this award demonstrates her commitment to helping others, improving her community and the world, and becoming a strong and independent leader. The Bronze Award may be achieved as a group or individually.

You can pursue your Girl Scout Bronze Award if:

- You're in fourth or fifth grade (or equivalent)
- You're a registered Girl Scout Junior
- You have completed a Junior Journey

Girl Scout Silver Award Steps

- Build your Girl Scout Junior team.
- Explore your community.
- Choose your Bronze Award project.
- Make a plan.
- Put your plan into motion.
- Spread the word.



Learn more about the Bronze Award:

Refer to the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting, website, or contact Vanessa at VWheeler@nmgirlscouts.org

Silver Award

Have you ever looked around your neighborhood or school and wondered how you could make a change for the better? Going for the Girl Scout Silver Award—the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn—gives you the chance to do big things and make your community better in the process.

The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest honor a Cadette Girl Scout can earn. This award highlights a girls' accomplishment in changing her community to improve her life and the lives of those around her. The Girl Scout Silver Award helps girls build important life and leadership skills while exploring possible career paths. This award can be earned individually or as a small group.

Girl Scout Silver Award Steps

- Identify an issue you care about.
- Build your Girl Scout Silver Award team or decide to go solo.
- Explore your community.
- Pick your Silver Award project.
- Develop your project.
- Make a plan and put it into motion.
- Reflect, share your story, and celebrate.

You can pursue your Girl Scout Silver Award if:

- You're in sixth, seventh, or eighth grade (or equivalent)
- You're a registered Girl Scout Cadette
- You have completed a Cadette Journey



Learn more about the Silver Award:

Refer to the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting, website, or contact Vanessa at VWheeler@nmgirlscouts.org



Bronze, Silver, & Gold Award FAQs

Why must girls complete Journeys before earning Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards?

Earning one of Girl Scouts' highest awards challenges girls to be their best. By first completing a "regular" Journey, girls learn what it takes to successfully complete a Take Action project—so they're better prepared to develop, plan, and implement the more involved Take Action project for their Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award.

How many hours should it take to earn each of the highest awards?

No two projects are alike, so the time to plan, share, and complete a project will vary depending on the scope of the project, team, and community support. The quality of the project should be emphasized over the quantity of hours necessary to complete it. However, after fulfilling the required Journey, the suggested minimum number of hours is:

Bronze Award: 20 hours
Silver Award: 50 hours
Gold Award: 80 hours

Can girls, or even an entire troop, work together on an award?

That depends on the award level. Girls are required to work as a team to earn the Bronze Award. Girls working toward their Silver Award may work individually or in small groups. Because the Gold Award is the highest achievement in Girl Scouts, girls must earn the award as individuals. Accordingly, different leadership skills are developed at each award level.

Is it possible to choose Girl Scouting itself as the focus of a Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award?

The Girl Scout movement can be the focus of a Take Action project for the Bronze Award, but not for the Silver and Gold Awards. Take Action projects for the Silver and Gold Awards must into the community to "make the world a better place."

Younger girls earning their Bronze Award are allowed to develop their planning and leadership skills within the comfort of a smaller group. Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors are ready to spread their wings, work more independently, and develop projects with—and for—a larger community.

How do you define "sustainable" when it comes to the highest awards?

Simply put, a sustainable project lives on in the community after a girl's involvement ends.

How do girls achieve that? They might focus on education and raising awareness. Or they might develop workshops and hands-on learning sessions that inspire others to keep the project going. Working with local government, community groups, nonprofit agencies, civic associations, and/or religious organizations can also help ensure the project lasts beyond the girl's involvement.



Does "sustainability" mean something different for different grade levels?

It's more the degree of sustainability that differs from level to level. We give girls tools to help them explore issues they may want to address so that they can develop sustainable projects, as well as measure impact on their community, target audience, and themselves.

Like many aspects of earning the highest awards, it becomes more challenging as girls progress to the higher levels. Girl Scout Juniors working on their Bronze Awards might think about how their projects could become ongoing. But Cadettes working on their awards actually plan for sustainability. Seniors and Ambassadors are required to make sustainability an essential component of their projects in order to meet Gold Award standards of excellence.

Do you have any advice on how to generate higher-quality projects?

A good first step is to make sure girls and their advisors understand the difference between a one-time community service project and a highest award Take Action project that serves an entire community for an extended period of time. The troop/group volunteer, council staff member, or Gold Award committee (for Gold Award only) should also work closely with girls to ensure that every project meets the quality requirements of the award.

How can we accurately measure the impact of a highest award project?

Check the award guidelines. We provide tools to help girls identify project goals for their community, target audience, and themselves using a "success indicator" matrix.

Can a girl complete her project after turning 18 and graduating? What about after she starts college?

A girl has until she turns 18 or until the end of the Girl Scout membership year (September 30) when she is a senior in high school to complete her project.

What if a girl graduates and is 18, but doesn't have her project completed?

In this case the girl would have until September 30 of the year she graduates.

What inspires you? Is it something in your school, community, country, or the world?

- What motivates you into action? Is it people, events, activities, places?
- What skills, talents, and strengths do you have to offer?
- How do you want to make a difference? As an advocate for justice? A promoter of environmental awareness? As a trainer, mentor, or coach? As an artist, actor, or musician? As an organizer of petitions or campaigns? As an entrepreneur? Can you think of another role?
- What motivates, inspires, and interests others? Can you build a team to support your idea?
- What would benefit the community both immediately and long-term?
- Check back through your Girl Scout leadership journey(s). What interested you that you might be able to translate into an award project?

Other Ways to Take Action

ad-vo-ca-cy

pleading for, or supporting a cause or proposal

As a Girl Scout, you probably hear the words take action a lot. What does that mean? Another word used for take action is advocacy or to advocate. Advocacy can mean: a person speaking out for a cause or idea. An advocate can be a lawyer, a doctor, a mom, a teacher...or a girl just like you!



Girl Scout Voices

Share your thoughts and feelings about Girl Scouting's benefits for girls! To give girls the best programs possible, Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails is interested in whether girls are enjoying program activities, if they are understanding new materials, and ultimately, if the programs are benefiting them.

Participation is voluntary; you may end your participation at any time. Your name will not appear on the surveys. Results of this study are solely for research purposes related to Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails and Girl Scouts of the USA and will not be used for sales or marketing of any kind.

To participate, visit the following web site: www.GirlScoutVoices.org



Girl Scout Advocacy Network

The Girl Scouts Advocacy Network provides tools for you to become a voice for girls and to make a difference in your community and across the nation. Together, we can educate policymakers and community leaders on issues that directly affect girls and the Girl Scouts. By being an advocate, you will have an impact on girl policy issues moving through Congress and state legislatures.

Through the Girl Scout Advocacy Network website you can swiftly take action on the following issues:

- Prevent cyberbullying and aggression (stop the emotional damage caused by the mean-girl culture).
- Support STEM careers for girls.
- Promote Healthy Images of Women

Check out the tool at the Advocacy website that helps you find your elected officials! girlscouts4girls.org



Did you know:

- The first Girl Scout handbook was published in 1913 and was entitled: How Girls Can Help Their Country.
- Two-thirds of female members of Congress have been Girl Scouts, where they learned leadership development skills.
- In 2001, the first Honorary Congressional Girl Scout Troop – Troop Capitol Hill – was convened and is currently comprised of all women members of Congress.

Be a Girl Scout Delegate

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Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails delegates elect the Board of Directors, Board Officers, and members of the Board Development Committee at the Council Annual Meeting. Throughout the year, delegates respond to requests for consultation from the Board and in this way influence the decisions of the Board as they fulfill their governance responsibilities.

Additionally, delegates represent the council at the National Council Meeting held every three years. The roles and responsibilities of the delegates and of the board are described in the council's by-laws.

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In October 2017, the National Girl Scout Council will convene its next triennial session. Every Girl Scout council is entitled to send a specified number of delegates to serve as voting members of the National Council. National delegates and alternates are selected by our Board Development Committee from the applications received. The applicants will then be presented to our council's membership for adoption at the Annual Meeting in November 2016.

Who can become a voting delegate? Adult members and Girl Scouts who are 14 years of age and up are eligible to serve as National Voting Members.

Delegate Eligibility and Responsibilities

- Must be a registered member 14 years or older.
- Serve a one-year term.
- Will vote in the elections of Council Officers, members of the Board of Directors, and GSUSA National Council Delegates.
- Will have the opportunity to serve on task groups exploring special topics and projects.
- Will identify and make known major issues affecting girls and adult volunteers.
- Attend and participate in our council's Annual Meeting

Service units across the council have delegate slots available. Contact your Regional Manager (membership staff person) for more information).

If chosen to be one of our voting delegates, you will:

- represent GSNMT at the 2017 National Council Session/54th National Convention of Girl Scouts of the USA on Oct. 4-8, 2017 in Columbus, Ohio
- help elect the National Board of Directors
- make decisions about the future of the Girl Scout movement during a three-year term (April 2017 to April 2020)

learn more: www.nmgirlscouts.org

Gold Awardees (1983-2016)

Over the years, Gold Award recipients have improved the lives of millions of people around the world. Their achievements range from rallying a community to clean a local waterway, to introducing young girls to STEM, to creating a program to teach swimming to underserved youth, to starting a shoe drive to help people in India go to school and work, among many others. Following is the list of Gold Award recipients that we have on file for those who earned their award in 1983 or more recent years in the GSNMT, Sangre de Cristo, or Chaparral councils. If we have missed your name, please provide your name to us so that we can acknowledge your significant achievement.

Acker, Kimberly (2009)	Gonzales, Alena (2011)	Marsh, Kimberly (1983)	Schwartz, Lani (2010)
Aldrich, Melinda (1988)	Graves, Shauna (1999)	Martinez, Kristen (2000)	Shaw, Kathryn (1997)
Bacon, Deborah (1989)	Guillory, Antoinette (1989)	Mathews, Julie Ann (1999)	Sheffield, Angela (2000)
Bayless, Meagan (1991)	Gustafson, Elena (2006)	Matuska, Linda (1989)	Simpson, Meg (1997)
Begano, Cecily (2011)	Gutierrez, Katherine (2012)	McCarty-Glenn, Mica (2007)	Smith, Michelle (2003)
Boucher, Carolyn (2001)	Haack, Michelle (2012)	McClain, Shannon (1997)	Sowards, Leslee (1995)
Brewster, Carrie (1986)	Hall, Christina (2000)	Mietz, Sarah (2006)	Sparks, Cassandra (2014)
Brommer, Kaitlyn (2008)	Hall-Hacker, Melinda (1993)	Milligan, Melissa (2006)	Spinney, Amanda (2007)
Brown, Cassandra (2009)	Hanson, Haley (2014)	Montoya, Joella (1984)	Starke, Debby (1995)
Butler, Kim (1996)	Hardy, Madalyn (2000)	Morgan, Kathy (1999)	Stringfield, Jessica (2006)
Butts, Jessica (1993)	Hart, Jessica (1996)	Murray, Susan (2004)	Suedkamp, Kim (1992)
Callahan, Taneke (2010)	Haulenbeek, Kimberly (1988)	Norvelle, Heather L. (1996)	Swarts, Sonya (2014)
Carter, Maria (1998)	Heitzinger, Kathleen (2012)	Noyes, Debby (1989)	Sword-Fehlberg, Samantha (2012)
Castillo, Monica (1990)	Herman, Wendy (1990)	Olivar, Rachel (1998)	Tholund, Melissa (1998)
Chrissinger, Debra (1993)	Hirschfeld, Marel (2007)	O'Neil, Britney (2002)	Toward, Krissie (2001)
Coleman, Mary (2016)	Hokanson, Sarah (1997)	Osgood, Heidi (1987)	Tucker, Susan (1987)
Cordova-Montalvo, Michelle (2009)	Holder, Brigitte (2000)	Padilla, Lena (1990)	Ulibarri, Nicola (2004)
Crawford, Charity (1993)	Huchton, Kristin (1995)	Peperzak Blake, Lacey (2004)	Van Amberg, Virginia (2007)
Cupryk, Linda (2012)	Hull, Heather (2000)	Petring, Karen (1990)	Vela, Kimberly (2002)
Daniel, Maia (2004)	Hyman, Kathryn (2000)	Pierce, Brenda Lee (1987)	Vigil, Terrylynn (1987)
Dell, Alexandria (2008)	Jameson, Katrina (1984)	Piltch, Emily (1996)	Vitale, Deborah June (1992)
Dimiduck, Sara (2008)	Jordan, Jody (1991)	Powell, Shawna (2006)	Warr, Shawna (1984)
Dunne, Kathleen (2002)	Kee, Elizabeth (2001)	Quinn, Christina (2004)	Webster, Deedra (2006)
Dutil, Lora (2007)	Keithley, Marissa "Mita" (2011)	Rausch, Shauna (1988)	White, Shaye (2003)
Edmonds, Kelly (1983)	Kimbrough, Jennifer (1981)	Reeves, Malia (2006)	Wilson, Sherry (1993)
Eisler, Heather (1995)	Kittredge, Alana (1993)	Roberson, Angela	Winsor, Carla (2006)
Emond, Mariah (1995)	Korzekwa, Katy (2001)	Roberts, Jessica (2008)	Wood, Jeanine (2001)
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Furu, Gaylene (1990)	Lorenz, Nicole	Rowland, Jennifer (2007)	
Gates, Lisa (1984)	Lowder, Jennifer (1993)	Sainvilmar, Andreina Suzie (2011)	
Gentry, Nicole (2005)	Lyons, Carolyn (1984)	Salter, Karen (1983)	
Givens, Shauna (1996)	Mah, Emily (1993)	Scheffing, Candice (1999)	

We have made every effort to ensure that this list is accurate. If you find an error or omission, please contact Carol Ann at cashort@nmgirlscouts.org

Invest in Girls. Change the World.

Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails has the reach and experience to help girls navigate an increasingly complex society. We believe every girl deserves the confidence to dream big and build a better world. 85% of every dollar goes directly to girls. 100% of girls will change their world. Join us in this historic fundraising campaign because when girls succeed, so does society.

Together, we will get her there.



Donate Online: [NMGirlScouts.org](https://www.nmgirlscouts.org)

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How you can support girls changing the world

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