

Adult Awards OVERVIEW



A complete guide to recognizing the achievements of volunteers in your community.



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Adult Awards Overview

Everyday Girl Scout volunteers make it possible for girls across Middle Tennessee to enjoy and benefit from an adventure-having, skill-building, lead-taking, life-changing good time. Without our volunteers' commitment to empowering girls, we couldn't change the world.

Each year at our Honors Day ceremony, we recognize volunteers who have shown extended commitment to the Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee (GSMIDTN) community.

These special Girl Scout Adult Awards come from your nominations!

Award Categories

General

These awards may be awarded to any volunteer or leader within Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee. We would not be able to fulfill our mission without the incredible work of all our volunteers- so we want to make sure that we celebrate everybody! Anyone can submit paperwork for these awards at any time through the [GSMIDTN Volunteer Appreciation page](#). There is a list of the awards available, and you can fill out the form underneath the award's name. GSMIDTN staff will email the submitter when the award has been approved and will either mail or leave the awards in the Cabin at the Nashville Service Center (Council) for pick up.

Service Unit Level

A limited number of these awards are presented per Service Unit per year. Each Service Unit Awards Committee is charged with setting deadlines and presenting these awards at a Service Unit Event. If you know a volunteer that you believe should be a candidate for one of these awards, contact your Service Unit Manager to make a recommendation. The Service Unit Manager applies for SU awards through the [GSMIDTN website](#). GSMIDTN staff will notify the Service Unit Manager when the awards have been approved and will either mail or leave the awards in the Cabin at Council for pickup.

Council Level

These awards are presented at Honors Day and require at least one letter of endorsement. Nominations occur during the winter and require approval from each volunteer's Regional Executive. The letter(s) of endorsement must clearly specify the reason the nominated volunteer should receive their award. All materials will be reviewed by Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee's Awards Committee prior to final approval. Once the recipients have been selected for the current year's Honors Day, the application window will close until the following fall. GSMIDTN staff will notify honorees when they have been selected, and the awardees will receive invitations to attend Honors Day and a celebratory reception.

General Awards



Trained Volunteer Pin:

A recognition earned by an active registered adult volunteer who has completed the required new leader training courses and at least two meetings or events beyond the troop level. These training courses include Intro to Girl Scouts, Safety and Important Forms, Troop Leader Role and Support System, Trainings Overview and Youth Protection. This pin is the foundation for all future training leaves that the volunteer earns.



Trained Volunteer Pin Leaves:

These can be earned as add-ons for the Trained Volunteer Pin when additional enrichment trainings are completed. Green leaves are equal to 10 hours of training. Training courses may be sponsored or led by Girl Scouts at the local or national level, a higher education institution, another organization (such as the American Red Cross), or a community adult education group. Training should have curriculum that will positively help volunteers lead Girl Scouts and enrich the experience of their members. After receiving 5 green leaves, the recipient may replace them with 1 silver leaf; 5 silver leaves may be replaced with one gold leaf.



Volunteer Pin

General volunteer pin given out to leaders and volunteers. When someone officially completes their steps to become a registered volunteer, they qualify for this award.



Years of Service Pin

Presented to adults in Girl Scouting in recognition of years of service at five-year intervals.



Years of Membership Pin

Numerals that reflect the total number of years of registered membership, both as a girl and an adult, in any Girl Scout/ Girl Guide organization. These awards are available in five-year intervals.

Service Unit Level Awards

Green Angel or Knight Certificate:

Presented to registered Girl Scout leaders, co-leaders, Fall Product/Cookie chair Service Team members at the end of their first year of service. No limit on the number of these per Service Unit.



Green Angel or Knight Pin:

Presented to registered Girl Scout leaders, co-leaders, and/or Fall Product/Cookie Chair Service Team members at the end of their second year of service. There is no limit on the number of these that can be awarded per Service Unit.



Green Angel or Knight Patch:

Presented to registered Girl Scout leaders, co-leaders and/or Fall Product/Cookie Chair Service Team members at the end of their third year of service. There is no limit on the number of these that can be awarded per Service Unit.



Outstanding Leader Award:

Recognizes an adult with outstanding troop leadership in Girl Scout program delivery to girls, meriting recognition by geographic or service team. We recommend highlighting their specific leadership achievements upon award presentation. There is a limit of two Outstanding Leader Awards that can be awarded per Service Unit per year.



Outstanding Volunteer Award:

Recognizes an adult in a position other than a troop leader for service to a geographic area or program delivery audience that is beyond expectations. We recommend highlighting the impact of their volunteer work upon award presentation. There is a limit of two Outstanding Volunteer Awards that can be awarded per Service Unit per year.

Rookie of The Year Certificate:

Recognizes the time, effort, and dedication put forth by a leader or assistant leader in their first year of service. There is a limit of one Rookie of the Year Certificate that can be awarded per Service Unit per year.



Volunteer of Excellence:

Recognizes a volunteer who has contributed outstanding service while partnering directly with girls in any pathway to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Service Unit There is a limit of one Volunteer of Excellence Award can be awarded per Service Unit per year.

Council Awards

These awards are presented at Honors Day and require one application and at least one letter of endorsement per volunteer per award. The letter of endorsement should come from a different person than the person who filled out the application. Nominations occur during the winter and require Regional Executive approval. We strongly encourage Service Unit managers/teams to nominate their volunteers and take the lead with advertising this opportunity. Letters of endorsement must clearly specify the reason this volunteer should receive their award.

All materials will be reviewed by the Director of Girl Experience and Programs, the Director of Membership Experience, and the Volunteer Resource Specialist prior to approval. Once final decisions have been made, the list will be sent to GSMIDTN's Board of Directors for final approval.

Once the recipients have been selected, the application window will close until the following winter. GSMIDTN staff will notify honorees when they are been selected, and the awardees will receive invitations to attend Honors Day and a celebratory reception.

Council Awards



Appreciation Pin:

Recognizes an individual's exemplary service in delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience - service which has had a measurable impact on one geographic area* and helped GSMIDTN surpass mission-delivery goals.



Honor Pin:

Recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience - service which has had measurable impact on two or more geographic areas* of service and helped reach and surpass mission-delivery goals.



Thanks Badge:

Honors an individual whose ongoing commitment, leadership, and service has had an exceptional, measurable impact on meeting mission-delivery goals and priorities benefiting the entire GSMIDTN service area* or Girl Scout Movement. This award is also given to retiring Board members.



Thanks Badge II for Continuing Service:

Recognizes a previous Thanks Badge recipient whose continued outstanding commitment, leadership, and service has had an exceptional, measurable impact on meeting mission-delivery goals and priorities benefiting the entire council or Girl Scout Movement. Candidates are eligible to receive this award five years after receiving their Thanks Badge.



President's Award:

Recognizes the efforts of a service delivery team or committee whose exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience surpassed team goals and resulted in significant, measurable impact toward reaching GSMIDTN's overall goals.

*A geographic area of service is defined as one Service Unit area. Volunteers who serve more than one Service Unit are eligible for awards that impact two or more Service Unit areas.

**Examples of volunteerism that impacts the entire Council includes serving as a delegate for GSUSA's National Council Session, running Council-wide day camps, and serving on committees that implement programming for all of Middle Tennessee.

Council Award Criteria

In the following award criteria, the phrase “inclusive behavior” is repeatedly used. At GSMIDTN, this is defined as actions, language and values that make people feel welcomed and valued, regardless of their differences.

Appreciation Pin

This award recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, which has had measurable impact on one geographic area of service, helping GSMIDTN to reach and surpass its mission-delivery goals of the area.

Criteria:

- The candidate is an active, registered adult Girl Scout.
- The service performed by the candidate is above and beyond the expectations for the position held and made an impact on a geographic area within GSMIDTN jurisdiction.
- The candidate actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behavior.

Nomination Procedure:

The nomination and endorsement letter(s) are submitted [online](#) by the nominator. The nominator cannot also write an endorsement letter. The nominator shall contact those individuals most appropriate to write endorsement letters in support of the nominee.

While the Appreciation Pin only requires one endorsement letter, we suggest you ask more than one person to write a letter in case a writer does not submit a letter on time, a letter lacks details or is poorly written, etc.

Plus, more letters will only help a nomination! Each letter should be unique and speak to the attributes that qualify the nominee for earning the award. The nominator collects the endorsement letters (preferably in a PDF file) and attaches them to the online nomination.

The entire nomination packet is submitted at once, online and reviewed by the GSMIDTN Adult Awards Committee. The GSMIDTN Adult Awards Committee will either approve, modify, or deny the nomination based on the nominee meeting the award criteria, the appropriateness of the award in relation to the achievements of the nominee, and the effectiveness of the endorsement letters.

Endorsement Example:

My nominee organized a GSMIDTN committee event with STEM programming which attracted more than 350 girls (100 more than originally expected). Because of this event, attendees were exposed to and had a chance to experience hands on activities which they would normally not encounter such as: magnetic forces, coding, structural engineering, and chemical reactions. Many troops attended this event to meet the Honor Troop requirement.

Honor Pin

This award recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience- service which has had measurable impact on two or more geographic areas of service and helped reach and surpass mission-delivery goals.

Criteria:

- The candidate is an active, registered adult Girl Scout.
- Position held and made an impact on two or more service units within GSMidTN's jurisdiction.
- The candidate actively recognizes, understands and practices the values of inclusive behavior.

Nomination Procedure:

The nomination and endorsement letter(s) are submitted [online](#) by the nominator. The nominator cannot also write an endorsement letter. The nominator will contact those individuals most appropriate to write endorsement letters in support of the nominee.

While the Honor Pin only requires one endorsement letter, we suggest that those nominating ask more than one person to write a letter in case a writer does not submit a letter on time, a letter lacks details or is poorly written, etc. Plus, more letters will only help a nomination! Each letter should be unique and speak to the attributes that qualify the nominee for earning the award.

The nominator will collect the endorsement letters (preferably in a PDF file) and attaches them to the online nomination. The entire nomination packet is submitted at once, online and reviewed by the GSMIDTN Adult Awards Committee. The GSMIDTN Adult Awards Committee will either approve, modify, or deny the nomination based on the nominee meeting the award criteria, the appropriateness of the award in relation to the achievements of the nominee, and the effectiveness of the endorsement letters.

Endorsement Example #1:

This volunteer stepped up as GSMIDTN Service Unit manager three years ago when no one else volunteered. At that time, she had only been a troop leader for 2 years. She has taken on several additional roles which needed to be filled including Camporee Coordinator, Philanthropy Chair, and Highest Awards Advisor. She ensured a smooth transition from year to year by recruiting and onboarding volunteers to fill much needed positions. Having a well-functioning team made substantial improvements. Because of her efforts, her Service Unit decided to invite a neighboring group to attend our annual camporee last year. This nominee reached out to the neighboring Service Unit manager and created a plan to involve their girls in our event. My nominee coordinated transportation, sleeping accommodations, and all other program details for 25 girls and 5 adults from the neighboring group. This group had so much fun at our camporee, they hosted their own event (and invited our girls) this year! Important to note that before this, there had been NO program opportunities for girls in this Service Unit for many years. My nominee was the spark this Service Unit needed to start hosting programs of their own for their girls.

Endorsement Example #2:

My nominee serves as an archery, low-ropes, and canoeing facilitator at our Spring and Summer campouts. Over the last 2 years of volunteering at our campouts, he has helped more than 100 girls experience these outdoor activities. In addition to volunteering at our campouts, he also volunteers throughout the year for other GSMIDTN Service Units, ensuring Girl Scouts throughout the area are able to participate in outdoor activities. This nominee even helped recruit two other facilitators to become lifeguards so that our girls could swim at camp this summer. Hundreds of girls are experiencing the joys of outdoor activities as a result of his actions.

Thanks Badge

This award honors an individual whose ongoing commitment, leadership, and service have had an exceptional, measurable impact on meeting the mission-delivery goals and priorities of GSMIDTN or the entire Girl Scout movement.

Criteria:

- The candidate is an active, registered adult Girl Scout.
- The outstanding service performed by the candidate resulted in outcomes that benefitted all of GSMIDTN or the entire Girl Scout Organization and is so significantly above and beyond the call of duty that no other award would be appropriate.
- The candidate actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behavior.

Nomination Procedure:

The nomination and endorsement letter(s) are submitted online by the nominator. Note- the nominator cannot also write an endorsement letter. The nominator contacts those individuals most appropriate to write endorsement letters in support of the nominee. While the Thanks Badge only requires one endorsement letter, we suggest you ask more than one person to write a letter in case a writer does not submit a letter on time, a letter lacks details or is poorly written, etc. Plus, more letters will only help a nomination!

Each letter should be unique and speak to the attributes that qualify the nominee for earning the award. The nominator collects the endorsement letters (preferably in a PDF file) and attaches them to the online nomination. The entire nomination packet is submitted at once, online and reviewed by the GSMIDTN Adult Awards Committee.

The GSMIDTN Adult Awards Committee will either approve, modify, or deny the nomination based on the nominee meeting the award criteria, the appropriateness of the award in relation to the achievements of the nominee, and the effectiveness of the endorsement letters.

Endorsement Example #1:

This nominee has been a volunteer with GSUSA for more than 20 years, through 10 moves, and 8 different countries. No matter where life takes her and her family, one of the first things she does when arriving in a new location is connect with the local Service Unit. She started as a Brownie Troop Leader for her youngest daughter in 1999 and since then has held the following positions:

- Troop leader for all program grade levels (Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors) from 1999-2019 serving more than 100 girls in the process.
- Bronze Award Advisor to 15 girls who went on to earn the award in 2009
- Silver Award Advisor to 8 girls who went on to earn the award in 2011
- Gold Award Advisor to 3 girls who went on to earn the award in 2014
- Membership Recruitment Team- 2013-2014
- Service Unit Manager for multiple Service Units

This volunteer became a facilitator for GSMIDTN in 2016, and leads international trips whenever she can. In her role as a facilitator, my nominee has trained more than 250 GSMIDTN volunteers in courses such as First Aid/CPR and Outdoor Skills. As an international trip leader, she traveled to London, England in 2017-2019 to spend a week working (on a volunteer basis) 12-hour days in the WAGGGS Center, which saw countless visitors.

Thanks Badge II

This award honors a previous Thanks Badge recipient who has continued to provide exemplary service in a leadership role, resulting in measurable impact that benefits the entire Girl Scout Movement. Since receipt of the Thanks Badge, the candidate has provided distinguished service by taking a leadership role in one or more of the following areas during the previous five years: membership, program, fund development, strategic planning, pluralism, human resources, marketing, and/or communications.

Criteria:

- The candidate is an active, registered adult Girl Scout.
- The candidate has received the Thanks Badge.
- Five years have passed since receiving the Thanks Badge.
- The outstanding service performed by the candidate resulted in outcomes that benefitted the entire Girl Scout organization, and is so significantly above and beyond the call of duty that no other award would be appropriate.
- The candidate actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behavior.

Nomination Procedure:

The nomination and endorsement letter(s) are submitted online by the nominator. Note- the nominator cannot also write an endorsement letter. The nominator shall contact those individuals most appropriate to write endorsement letters in support of the nominee.

While the Thanks Badge II only requires one endorsement letter, we suggest you ask more than one person to write a letter in case a writer does not submit a letter on time, a letter lacks details or is poorly written, etc. Plus, more letters will only help a nomination! Each letter should be unique and speak to the attributes that qualify the nominee for earning the award. The nominator collects the endorsement letters (preferably in a PDF file) and attaches them to the online nomination. The entire nomination packet is submitted at once, online and reviewed by the GSMIDTN Adult Awards Committee.

The GSMIDTN Adult Awards Committee will either approve, modify, or deny the nomination based on the nominee meeting the award criteria, the appropriateness of the award in relation to the achievements of the nominee, and the effectiveness of the endorsement letters.

Endorsement Example:

After receiving the Thanks Badge 2 years ago for her work creating the Summit event, my nominee was so motivated by the success of this project, that she formed a task group to ensure the program would be sustained for years to come. She started by recruiting one pair of representatives from all U.S. councils, as well as GSMIDTN staff members to serve as her task group. This task group provides the theme and dates for Summit each year, manages registration, payments, and promotion for all council hosts, and creates programming templates to ensure a consistent experience no matter which event a girl attends.

As a result of her efforts, Summit is now in its 4th year. Each year, at least 15 councils simultaneously host events for Girl Scouts in their region. Over the last 4 years, more than 2,000 girls have attended Summit and earned an Outdoor Journey. Recruitment remains a focus of these events every year, and as such, more than 500 new girls have joined Girl Scouts thanks to this nominee's bright idea and hard work!

President's Award:

The President's Award recognizes the efforts of a service-delivery team or committee whose exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience surpassed team goals and resulted in significant, measurable impact toward reaching the council's overall goals.

Criteria:

- All service-team members are registered Girl Scouts.
- All service-team members have met all requirements and expectations of the positions held
- The service-delivery team has significantly contributed to meeting one or more of the council's mission-delivery goals.
- The service-delivery team reflects the diversity of the target audience or area it serves, in girl and adult membership, in all pathways offered.
- The service-delivery team actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behavior.

Nomination Procedure:

The nomination and endorsement letter(s) are submitted [online](#) by the nominator. Note- the nominator cannot also write an endorsement letter. The nominator shall contact those individuals most appropriate to write endorsement letters in support of the nominee.

While the President's Award only requires one endorsement letter, we suggest you ask more than one person to write a letter in case a writer does not submit a letter on time, a letter lacks details or is poorly written, etc. Plus, more letters will only help a nomination! Each letter should be unique and speak to the attributes that qualify the nominee for earning the award. The nominator collects the endorsement letters (preferably in a PDF file) and attaches them to the online nomination. The entire nomination packet is submitted at once, online and reviewed by the GSMIDTN Adult Awards Committee.

The GSMIDTN Adult Awards Committee will either approve, modify, or deny the nomination based on the nominee meeting the award criteria, the appropriateness of the award in relation to the achievements of the nominee, and the effectiveness of the endorsement letters.

Endorsement Example:

Service Unit 123 thoroughly love their Girl Scout experience and wanted to do everything they could to expand the membership in their area! The Girl Scouts and their leaders decided to host a back-to-school festival for potential Girl Scouts and volunteers! The festival included different stations where participants could learn about various badges and their associated skillset. There were SWAPS stations, knot tying stations, information packets about the Girl Scouts program, and so much more. Thanks to the months of coordination and hard work from everyone involved, Service Unit 123 recruited 75 new Girl Scouts and 30 new volunteers! This Service Unit consistently shares their lessons and opportunities with one another, and roots for their neighbors to succeed. The back-to-school festival plans are in progress for next fall, and we can't wait to see what they come up with next.

Volunteer of Excellence

This Service Unit award recognizes volunteers who have contributed outstanding service while partnering directly with girls to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through use of the National Program Portfolio or who have contributed outstanding service in support of GSMIDTN's mission delivery to adult members.

Criteria:

- The candidate is an active, registered adult Girl Scout.
- The candidate has successfully completed a term of service and all requirements for the position.
- The candidate has performed beyond expectations for the position to either:
 - Deliver the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to girls using the national program portfolio OR
 - Support GSMIDTN's mission-delivery goals in one or more of the following functional areas: membership development/community cultivation, volunteer relations and support, program, leadership and governance, fund development, and council support service (such as IT, customer service, merchandising, marketing and communication).
- The candidate actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behavior.

Nomination Procedure:

A complete nomination form is submitted through the [GSMIDTN Volunteer Appreciation page](#). GSMIDTN's Volunteer Resource Specialist will either approve or deny the nomination and send out awards from there.

Endorsement Example:

A volunteer Program Advisor works over the course for the year with a teen advisory committee of 8 current Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors who plan and deliver four performance day camps, using content from the Junior aMuse Journey. As a result, 55 Junior Girl Scouts completed the aMuse Journey and consequently the pre-requisite for the Bronze Award. Due to advertising efforts outside of currently registered Girl Scouts, the performance day camps also recruited 20 new Girl Scouts who registered specifically to attend the program. Each member of the teen advisory committee earned their Service to Girl Scouting Pin.