

Council Level Awards

Council Level Awards Requirements

Nomination deadline: August 10, 2023

Council level awards are presented at the annual Volunteer Awards Celebration held in the fall. Awardees are notified that they will be honored, and provided registration instructions, but the awards are kept secret until presentation at the event! All volunteers are encouraged to attend to support their fellow difference makers.

1. Complete the Volunteer Awards Nomination Form (linked in each description) and 2-4 letters of endorsement
 2. The candidate:
 - a. Is an active, registered Girl Scout member. **Except candidates of the Friend of Girl Scouts of PA award.*
 - b. Can be involved at any level of volunteering, from parent helpers to service unit team members..
 - c. Actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behaviors.
 3. The service performed is above and beyond the expectations for the position held.
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- ✓ Review all award descriptions and requirements in the Adult Recognitions Handbook
 - ✓ Recruit endorsers to complete and submit the required endorsements to you to include in the nomination form
 - ✓ Once the first two steps are complete, submit the Smarter Select nomination form (linked in each award description) with its 2-4 endorsements

Council Level Awards Requirements (cont.)

The Adult Recognitions Committee is comprised of volunteers from throughout our 9 county footprint. They review each nomination and endorsement and compare the information presented about the volunteer with the criteria established for each award. *They only know what is presented in the completed nominations.* Upon review, they will :

1. Approve the candidate for the nominated award
or
2. Approve the candidate for a different award
or
3. Deny the award. In a case where there is no indication given that the candidate's service met the award criteria, the nomination could be denied.

The committee decisions are sent to the GSEP Board of Directors for final approval at the September Board of Directors meeting. Upon final approval, you will be notified regarding the status of your nomination.



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APPRECIATION PIN – A GSUSA Award

The Appreciation Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE).

Additional Criteria:

- I. The service performed has measurable impact on at least one geographic area, service unit, or program audience in a way that furthers the council's mission-delivery goals.

Nomination: Submit nomination [form](#) with **two endorsement** letters

DIVERSITY AWARD- A GSEP Award

The Diversity Award recognizes a volunteer who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to promoting diversity in her/his community, service unit, or council.

Additional Criteria:

- I. The service performed made a measurable impact.
- II. The service performed by the candidate not only established the presence of, but engaged social, ethnic, and other groups in Girl Scouts.

Nomination: Submit nomination [form](#) with **two endorsement** letters



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SUPER SERVICE UNIT AWARD- A GSEP Award

The Super Service Unit Award recognizes a service unit volunteer who has gone above and beyond providing time, skills, and leadership in her/his role on the service unit team.

Additional Criteria:

- I. The candidate has actively served as a service unit team member for five years or more.
- II. The service performed has measurable impact on at least one service unit, offering programs, events, and support services to its members.

Nomination: Submit nomination [form](#) with **two endorsement** letters

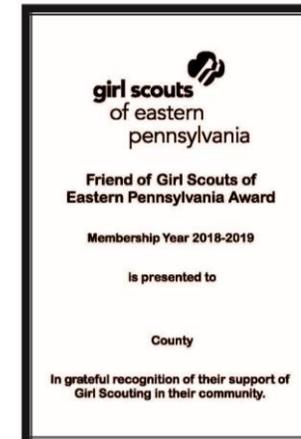
FRIEND OF GIRL SCOUTS OF EASTERN PA AWARD- A GSEP Award

The Friend of Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania Award recognizes a business or organization who supports GSEP by providing meeting space, hosting programs, providing financial support, or other means of visible support to more than one service unit or the entire council.

Additional Criteria:

- I. The candidate's commitment to the organization and the mission played an integral role that furthers the council's mission-delivery goals.
- II. The service performed has a measurable impact on more than one service unit or the entire council.

Nomination: Submit nomination [form](#) with **two endorsement** letters



Please note: Up to five awards will be presented each year.

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RISING STAR AWARD- A GSEP Award

Recognizes the service of a volunteer who is new to the role of Girl Scout leader/coleader and has hit the ground running. This adult volunteer has been in this role for a short time but has made a big impact on their troop/group or service unit, fully embraced the Girl Scout movement with energy and passion, and has performed outstanding work within their first two years.

Additional Criteria:

- I. The candidate has actively served as a volunteer for two years or less.
- II. The service performed has measurable impact programs, events, and support services to girls and other volunteers.

Nomination: Submit nomination [form](#) with **two endorsement** letters

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HONOR PIN – A GSUSA Award

The Honor Pin recognizes a volunteer whose outstanding service has impacted multiple service units.

Additional Criteria:

- I. The candidate has provided outstanding service in any role to at least two service units in a way that furthers the council's goals.
- II. The service performed has a measurable impact.

Nomination: Submit nomination [form](#) with **three** endorsement letters

LIGHTS OF LOYALTY AWARD- A GSEP Award

The Lights of Loyalty Award recognizes a volunteer whose long-term commitment and service to the organization and the mission are extraordinary.

Additional Criteria:

- I. The candidate has been an active adult Girl Scout member for 30 or more years (please do not count years as a girl).
- II. The candidate's long-term commitment to the organization and the mission span at least one geographic area, service unit, or entire council.

Nomination: Submit nomination [form](#) with **two** endorsement letters



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THANKS BADGE – A GSUSA Award

The Thanks Badge recognizes a volunteer who has provided exceptional, outstanding service that benefits the total council or entire Girl Scout Movement.

Additional Criteria:

- I. The service performed has a measurable impact on the council or entire Girl Scout Movement.
- II. The service is so significantly beyond expectations, that no other award is appropriate.

Nomination: Submit nomination [form](#) with **four endorsement** letters

THANKS BADGE II – A GSUSA Award

The Thanks Badge II recognizes a Thanks Badge recipient who has since provided continuing distinguished service benefiting the total council that significantly surpasses the original achievement.

Additional Criteria:

- I. The service performed has a measurable impact on the council or entire Girl Scout Movement.

Nomination: Submit nomination [form](#) with **four endorsement** letters



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Engraved for each recipient

GERTRUDE K. MCGONIGLE AWARD- a GSEP Award

The Gertrude K. McGonigle Award recognizes an individual who has proven to be a positive role model while working directly with girls and has exemplified the values and traditions of Girl Scouting. This award is given in honor of Gertrude K. McGonigle by her daughter, in recognition of her mother's long-standing interest and support of Girl Scouting in the Reading/Berks County area.

Additional Criteria:

- I. The candidate has been an active Girl Scout member for at least ten years.
- II. The service performed made a measurable impact.

Nomination: Submit nomination [form](#) with **three endorsement** letters

Please note: Only one award will be presented each year.

GIRL SCOUTS OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA AWARD- a GSEP Award

The GSEP Award is the highest council level award and recognizes “the ultimate GSEP volunteer.” This award honors three legacy council leaders: Janet A. Clark (Girl Scouts Freedom Valley), Ellen Mary Cassatt (Girl Scouts of Southeastern Pennsylvania), and Ronnie Backenstoe (Girl Scouts- Great Valley Council).

Additional Criteria:

- I. The candidate has been an active Girl Scout member for at least ten years.
- II. The candidate exemplifies commitment and dedication that is remarkable and of extraordinary service to the entire council.

Nomination: Submit nomination [form](#) with **four endorsement** letters

Please note: Up to three awards will be presented each year.



THE GERTRUDE K. MCGONIGLE AWARD

Gertrude K. McGonigle of Wyomissing, a lifetime member of Girl Scouts, devoted countless hours toward the betterment of the Girl Scout program.

The Gertrude K. McGonigle award was initiated by Caroline Holleran in honor of her mother and recognizes long term excellence in leadership and service and serving as a role model for girls with whom she works.

She served on the nominating committee in 1968, 2 board terms, board member of Berks County council, charter member of GV board, trustee of the Great Valley Foundation, and troop leader. The award, an engraved silver bowl, is given in her name each year.

THE GIRL SCOUTS OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA AWARD

The GSEP Award is given in honor of Janet A. Clark (Girl Scouts Freedom Valley), Ellen Mary Cassatt (Girl Scouts of Southeastern Pennsylvania), and Ronnie Backenstoe (Girl Scouts- Great Valley Council).

Born in Philadelphia in 1894. On March 16, 1916 Juliette Low came to Bryn Mawr to speak to students. Later she met with twenty outstanding women in the Philadelphia area to place before them the idea of starting a Girl Scout Council in Philadelphia.

Juliette Low selected Miss Ellen Mary Cassett, age 24, to be the first commissioner. In April 1917 the Council was completely organized, chartered and incorporated. (Miss Cassatt's signature appears on the original charter of the Council). She served as Chief Commissioner 1917-1922.

Janet A. Clarke was a President of GS Freedom Valley Council and a dedicated Girl Scout for many years. She was able to make a profound impact on the former council during her years of service.

Ronnie Backenstoe has been a dedicated Girl Scout and leader for over 80 years. Throughout different occupations and family obligations, Ronnie continued to seek out Girl Scouts wherever she landed. She still lives by the words of Juliette Gordon Low "The work of today is the history of tomorrow and we are the makers."

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Presented by GSEP based on data. These are not nominated awards.



The **Leadership Knot** is awarded to three Service Units with the highest percentage of Bronze, Silver, & Gold Award recipients, based on a ratio of the number of eligible girls to awards earned in the previous membership year.

The **Service Unit Growth Award** is awarded to the service unit with the greatest girl membership growth in the previous membership year.



The **Service Unit Retention Award** is awarded to the service unit with the greatest girl member retention in the previous membership year.

The **CEO Award** recognizes the efforts of a service unit in moving its assigned area toward GSEP's goals and objectives of service, learning, and growth. Each of these units has exceeded their membership goals, participated 100% in learning opportunities at a council level and completed a Service Unit level service project.



Awards presented at the council level



THE NUMERAL GUARD

AGSUSA award
35+ years

Description

The Numeral Guard is a longevity recognition for an individual for their total years of registered membership, including years as a girl and as an adult member.



THE YEARS OF SERVICE PIN

A GSUSA award
25+ years

Description:

The Years of Service Pin is a longevity recognition for an adult volunteer's dedication to Girl Scouting.

- *Years do not need to be consecutive*
- *Pins are available in five-year increments*
- *Individuals track their total years*
- *GSEP does not automatically distribute pins. Please submit a request form to receive your pin(s).*

Instructions

1. Complete all Requester Information fields in the [request form](#)
2. Complete the Pins Requested fields
 - a. Enter the number of individuals who should receive each pin (enter 0 where appropriate)
 - b. Enter the names of all individuals who should receive each pin (ex. Sally Smith- Ambler, PA; Betty Jones, Ambler, PA)
3. Click "Submit"
4. GSEP staff will process your request and distribute pins accordingly

*If you select to distribute the pins at the annual Volunteer Awards Celebration, GSEP staff will invite each recipient to attend the event.