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Volunteer Recognition Goals

The primary goal of volunteer awards is to **recognize and appreciate** the significant impact of volunteers, **which boosts morale, fosters retention, and inspires others** to engage in community service. These awards **validate** the time and talent invested, strengthen the relationship between volunteers and organizations, and **build a culture of appreciation and leadership**.

Volunteer Recognition Overview

Given by the Council (GSEP)	Given by the Service Unit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Impact Awards designed to honor volunteers at the Troop level and the Service Unit Level. - Council Excellence & Legacy Awards designed to honor council wide impact and commitment to the movement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteer of Excellence Award - Friend of GSEP Award (also given at the Council Level) - Service Unit Created Awards - Years of Service (5, 10, 15, 20) - Numeral Guard (5,10,15,20,25,30)
<p>Awarded by the Council</p> <p>Winners are selected by the Council appointed Volunteer Awards Committee</p> <p>Awards are purchased by the Council</p> <p>Awards are distributed at Council Wide events</p>	<p>Awarded by SU Leadership</p> <p>Winners are selected by SU Leadership</p> <p>Awards are purchased by SU Leadership</p> <p>Awards are distributed at SU events.</p>

Council Awards Overview

Community Impact Awards		Council Excellence & Legacy Awards	
Troop Level Awards	Service Unit Level Awards	Council Excellence	Legacy Awards
- Rising Star - Top Cookie - Campfire Catalyst - Roots to Wings - Lasting Sisterhood - Heart of the Troop - Giving Heart - Voice of the Troop	- Super Service Unit - Leadership Knot - CEO Award - Rookie of the Year - SU Growth - SU Retention - Top Cookie	- Thanks Badge - Thanks Badge II - Honor Pin - Appreciation Pin - Gertrude McGonigle - GSEP Award - Diversity Award - Lights of Loyalty - Friend of GSEP	- Years of Service (25+) - Numeral Guard (35+)
Nomination Window: 4/15-6/1		Nomination Window: 10/1 – 12/15	
Awarded at Fall Adult Learn and Lead (FALL) Event (10/24/26)	Awarded at Volunteer Kick Off (8/9/26)	Awarded at Annual Meeting (5/2027)	

How to Nominate:

1. Determine the award that best reflects the volunteer's impact.
2. Review the nomination details and specific award criteria in the **Volunteer Awards Guide** to ensure the volunteer is eligible.
3. Review and collect the specific information requested in the nomination form. See the list of nomination form questions for each award in the **Volunteer Awards Guide**.
4. Get required number of endorsements from other community members. Provide Endorsers the award specific [Endorsement Template](#) or send them the [Endorsement Form](#).
5. Submit the nomination form [HERE](#) including uploading any endorsements into the form. Reference the [Nomination Best Practice](#) section of this Volunteer Awards Guide.

Note on Nominations

- ✓ Every candidate must be an **active, registered Girl Scout member**.
- ✓ Nominators cannot also write an endorsement
- ✓ A nominator or endorser cannot be a family member
- ✓ An individual can only earn one of the nominated awards per year, not including Numeral Guard, Years of Service, and group awards.

Nomination Best Practices

Recognizing volunteers well means telling a clear, compelling story of their impact. Use these five best practices to strengthen your nominations and endorsements:

1. Be specific, not generic. Use concrete examples of the volunteer’s impact—numbers, stories, and outcomes carry far more weight than broad praise.

Non-Example	Example
“Maria is an amazing leader who always goes above and beyond.”	“Over the past year, Maria organized 12 troop meetings, led 3 community service projects, and helped 8 girls complete their Bronze Award.”

2. Match the story to the award. Tailor your nomination to reflect the exact criteria of the award so reviewers can easily see the alignment.

Non-Example	Example
“Jasmine is kind, dependable, and everyone enjoys working with her.”	“This award recognizes innovative leadership, and Jasmine demonstrated this by creating a virtual badge program that reached 50 girls across three troops.”

3. Show impact on girls. Emphasize how the volunteer’s actions directly benefited and empowered Girl Scouts, not just how helpful they were to adults.

Non-Example	Example
“Lynn is always willing to help other leaders and keeps things organized.”	“Because of Lynn’s mentorship, first-year Daisies gained confidence speaking in front of groups and independently planned their first Take Action project.”

4. Provide several examples. Show consistent impact by including multiple distinct examples rather than relying on just one strong story.

Non-Example	Example
“Sam did a great job planning our end-of-year celebration.”	“Sam organized a troop camping trip, launched a cookie sales mentoring program for new girls, and led a service project benefiting a local food bank.”

5. Keep it clear and compelling. Write in a straightforward, engaging way—avoid jargon and make it easy for reviewers to quickly grasp why this person stands out.

Non-Example	Example
“Alex served as SUCM and led our JGLCD, including coordinating volunteers, running the wishes table, and supporting all the girls on the GLC.”	“In just one year, Alex transformed a struggling troop into an engaged, confident group of girls who now lead their own meetings.”

Pro Tip: Strong nominations make the reviewer’s job easy—clear alignment, vivid examples, and a focus on girl impact will always stand out.

Community Impact Awards: Service Unit Level

Nomination Timeline: 4/15-6/1

Awards granted at the Volunteer Kick Off Event (8/9/26)

Service Unit level awards are designed to recognize and honor the work of volunteers serving in Service Unit roles across the council. Some of the below awards require nomination and endorsements, and some are automatically granted based on Service Units meeting specified criteria. Please see details on each potential award below.

Award	Definition	Eligible Volunteers	Endorsements Req'd	Awards Given Council Wide
Super Service Unit	Recognizes an SU volunteer who has gone above and beyond providing time, skills and leadership in their role. Nomination required.	SU Volunteer for 5+ years	2	Unlimited
Leadership Knot	Three SU with highest percentage of Bronze, Silver & Gold recipients in prior membership year.	n/a	n/a	3
CEO Award	All SUs who exceed membership goals.	n/a	n/a	Unlimited
SU Rookie of the Year	Recognizes 1 st or 2 nd year SU Team member that goes above and beyond and has made a significant impact. Nomination Required.	SU Volunteer	2	3
SU Growth	SU with highest percentage of girl retention in membership year	n/a	n/a	1
SU Retention	SU with highest girl growth in membership year	n/a	n/a	1
Top Cookie Award	Honors volunteers who have gone above and beyond in support of the Cookie Program, including being a Cookie expert, supporting others, encouraging girl-led activities/entrepreneurship and facilitating cookie program engagement. Nomination Required.	SU Cookie Manager	2	Unlimited

Service Unit Level Award Detail

Award: Super Service Unit	Eligible Positions: Service Unit Volunteers
The Super Service Unit Award recognizes a service unit volunteer who has gone above and beyond providing time, skills, and leadership in their role on the Service Unit team.	
Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Registered GSEP Volunteer - Actively served as a service unit team member for five years or more - Service performed has measurable impact on at least one service unit - Service performed is above and beyond the expectations for the position held, offering programs, events and support services to its members. - Actively recognizes, understands and practices the values of inclusive behaviors 	
Nomination Form LINK	2 Endorsements Required; Endorsement Form LINK

Award: Rookie of the Year	Eligible Positions: Service Unit Volunteers
Recognizes first or second year SU team member that goes above and beyond their position description and has made a significant impact within their Service Unit or Council.	
Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Registered GSEP Volunteer - Serving for the first time in a Service Unit role and are in Year 1 or Year 2 - Takes initiative, contributes new ideas, and supports Service Unit activities - Service performed is above and beyond the expectations for the position held - Helps provide a safe, inclusive and enriching experience for Girl Scouts - Inspires and encourages fellow volunteers 	
Nomination Form LINK	2 Endorsements Required; Endorsement Form LINK

Award: Top Cookie	Eligible Positions: Service Unit Cookie Managers
The Top Cookie Award honors Service Unit Cookie Managers who have gone above and beyond in their support of the Girl Scout Cookie Program, including being a cookie expert in their community, supporting others throughout the Cookie Program, encouraging girl-led activity and entrepreneurship throughout the cookie program, and facilitating Cookie Program engagement in their community.	
Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Registered GSEP Volunteer - Has made a positive impact on their Service Unit - Has provided outstanding service related to the success of the Cookie Program - Has exhibited strong communication with families, Troop Cookie Managers, the Service Unit, and the Council - Modeled honest and responsibility during every step of the Cookie Program including managing inventory appropriately 	
Nomination Form LINK	2 Endorsements Required; Endorsement Form LINK

Community Impact Awards: Troop Level

Troop Level Awards Overview: Troop level awards are designed to recognize and honor the work of volunteers serving in troops across the council.

Nomination Timeline: 4/15-6/1

Awards granted at the Fall Adult Lead and Learn Event (FALL) (10/24/26)

Award	Definition	Eligible Volunteers	Endorsements Req'd	Awards Given Council Wide
Rising Star	A Troop Leader new to the role who has hit the ground running and made a significant impact on their troop.	Troop Leader for 2 or fewer years	1 caregiver	Up to 8
Lasting Sisterhood Award	Troop Leader who has created a strong community with their troop and troop caregivers ensuring long term girl retention and investment.	Troop Leader	1 caregiver	Up to 8
Heart of the Troop Award	Troop level volunteer who constantly volunteers and gives significant time and energy to the troop.	Troop level volunteer (not a leader)	1 caregiver	Up to 8
Giving Heart Award	Troop Leader that teaches the value of service and ensures her troop gives back to their community in powerful ways.	Troop Leader	1 caregiver	Up to 8
Voice of the Troop Award	Troop leader that ensures girls truly take the lead in their troop – deciding and running the troop themselves	Troop Leader	1 caregiver	Up to 8
Roots to Wings Honor	Troop Leaders that have been with their troop from Daisy/Brownie to Ambassadors	Troop Leader	None	Unlimited
Top Cookie Award	Troop Cookie Managers who have gone above and beyond in support of the Cookie Program.	Troop Cookie Manager	1 caregiver	Up to 8
Campfire Catalyst	Troop Volunteer who provides girls with robust, varied and meaningful outdoor experiences.	Troop Volunteer	1 caregiver	Up to 8

Troop Level Award Detail

Award: Rising Star Award	Eligible Positions: 1st – 2nd Year Troop Leaders	
<p>This award recognizes the service of a volunteer who is new to the role of Girl Scout leader/co-leader 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.</p>		
<p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Registered GSEP Volunteer - The candidate helps provide a safe, inclusive and enriching experience for Girl Scouts. - Volunteered for two (2) years or less with a troop as a leader/co-leader - Completed all required GSEP training for new leaders - Attended, or had a proxy attend, local service unit meetings - Girls in the candidate’s troop participated in the Girl Scout Product Program - Made a significant impact on their troop and performed outstanding work 		
<p>Nomination/Endorsement Form Prompts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give specific examples of how this troop leader went above and beyond the expectations of a troop leader 2. Describe ways in which this leader has ensured every Girl Scout has had an excellent and meaningful Girl Scout Leadership Experience. 3. Describe, in detail, the positive impact of this Troop Leader on the girls and families in their troop. 4. Add any other details or information to support the committee in making a decision. 		
<p>Endorsement Form Prompts: 1 Caregiver Endorsement Required</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the most memorable way in which this volunteer positively impacted the girls in the troop, specifically aligned to the Rising Star Award? 2. What are some examples of how this volunteer built girls’ courage, confidence, and character? 3. How has this volunteer impacted you, your Girl Scout, and/or the Girl Scout Troop? 		
Nomination Form LINK	Endorsement Form LINK	Endorsement Form Template

Award: Campfire Catalyst		Eligible Positions: Troop Volunteers
This award recognizes a Troop Volunteer who provides girls with robust, varied, and meaningful outdoor experiences that build girls' outdoor skills and confidence. The volunteer puts significant energy and creativity in designing and facilitating experiences that build girls' respect and appreciation for the outdoors.		
Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Registered GSEP Volunteer - Organized and helped the troop go on multiple outdoor adventures - Multiple specific examples of building girls' outdoor skills and confidence - Multiple specific examples of increasing girls' respect and appreciation for the outdoors 		
Nomination Form Prompts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe all of the outdoor activities that this nominee has facilitated or supported with their troop in the past membership year. 2. What are some examples of how this volunteer built girls' outdoor skills and confidence? 3. What are some examples of how this volunteer increased girls' respect and appreciation for the outdoors? 		
Endorsement Form Prompts: 1 Caregiver Endorsement Required <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the most memorable way in which this volunteer positively impacted the girls in the troop, specifically aligned to the Campfire Catalyst Award? 2. What are some examples of how this volunteer built girls' outdoor skills and confidence? 3. How has this volunteer impacted you, your Girl Scout, and/or the Girl Scout Troop? 		
Nomination Form LINK	Endorsement Form LINK	Endorsement Form Template

Award: Heart of the Troop Award		Eligible Positions: Troop Helpers
This award honors a Troop Helper or other non-Troop Leader/non-Troop Cookie Manager volunteer who constantly volunteers and gives significant amounts of time and energy to the troop. The contributions of this volunteer allow the troop to engage in more activities and experiences because of the time they spend volunteering and supporting. Other volunteers' roles become easier because of this volunteer's commitment and efforts.		
Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Registered GSEP Volunteer - Supported the troop as a volunteer in a helper role for at least two years - Consistently goes above and beyond to support the troop - Directly supports the troop leaders or TCM in ways that make their roles easier. 		
Nomination Form Prompts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How long has this person supported the troop as a registered and cleared volunteer? 2. What are some specific examples of how this volunteer went above and beyond to support the troop? 3. What are some specific examples of how this volunteer supported the troop leaders or troop cookie manager in way that made their role easier? 		
Endorsement Form Prompts: 1 Caregiver Endorsement Required <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the most memorable way in which this volunteer positively impacted the girls in the troop, specifically aligned to the Heart of the Troop Award? 2. What are some examples of how this volunteer supported the troop so that girls had multiple experiences that built courage, confidence, and character? 3. How has this volunteer impacted you, your Girl Scout, and/or the Girl Scout Troop? 		
Nomination Form LINK	Endorsement Form LINK	Endorsement Form Template

Award: Giving Heart Award		Eligible Positions: Troop Leaders	
This award recognizes a Troop Leader that teaches the value of service and ensures their troop gives back to their community in powerful ways. This volunteer goes above and beyond to organize and facilitate events and activities that allow girls to make a measurable impact on the community.			
Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Registered GSEP Volunteer - Has facilitated multiple service projects with the troop - Has designed and implemented multiple activities that build girls' understanding of the importance of giving back to the community - The troop's projects and service have measurable impact on the greater community 			
Nomination Form Prompts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe all of the community service projects or events this volunteer has facilitated with the troop this year. 2. What are some examples of specific activities that built girls in the troop's understanding of the importance of giving back to the community? 3. What are some specific examples of community impact based on the troop's projects? 			
Endorsement Form Prompts: 1 Caregiver Endorsement Required <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the most memorable way in which this volunteer positively impacted the girls in the troop, specifically aligned to the Giving Heart Award? 2. What are some examples of how this volunteer ensured girls have opportunities to give back and positively impact the community? 3. How has this volunteer impacted you, your Girl Scout, and/or the Girl Scout Troop? 			
Nomination Form LINK		Endorsement Form LINK	Endorsement Form Template

Award: Voice of the Troop Award		Eligible Positions: Troop Leaders	
This award recognizes a Troop Leader that builds and strengthens girls' teamwork and leadership skills by designing and implementing a troop structure that puts girls fully in charge. In this leader's troop, girls take the lead in all parts of troop functioning – making decisions, implementing activities, setting up and planning events, and more. This Troop Leader goes to incredible efforts to rise up girls and their voices.			
Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Registered GSEP Volunteer - Constantly and thoughtfully designs and implements activities that foster girl leadership - Goes above and beyond to ensure the troop reflects the voices and opinions of the girls involved - Girls in the troop have significant opportunities to make decisions and plans - Girls lead the troop in multiple concrete ways 			
Nomination Form Prompts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are some specific examples of activities this troop leader has facilitated that allowed for girls to lead the troop? 2. What are some concrete responsibilities and decision making powers owned by girls in the troop? 3. Give specific examples of projects or experiences that were significantly girl-led in the troop and how the troop leader ensured that this happened. 			
Endorsement Form Prompts: 1 Caregiver Endorsement Required <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the most memorable way in which this volunteer positively impacted the girls in the troop, specifically aligned to the Voice of the Troop Award? 2. What are some examples of how this volunteer supported the troop so that girls had multiple experiences that built courage, confidence, and character? 3. How has this volunteer impacted you, your Girl Scout, and/or the Girl Scout Troop? 			
Nomination Form LINK		Endorsement Form LINK	Endorsement Form Template

Award: Lasting Sisterhood		Eligible Positions: Troop Leaders	
The volunteer has been nominated for the Lasting Sisterhood Award . This award recognizes a Troop Leader who has created a strong community with their troop and troop caregivers ensuring long term girl retention and investment. This volunteer goes above and beyond to ensure every girl feels welcomed and included in the troop, thoughtfully designing activities and interactions that strengthen friendships and connections.			
Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Registered GSEP Volunteer - Majority of girls have been with the troop for at least 4 years - Facilitates activities that strengthened the bond between girls - Designs and facilitates activities that strengthen the connection of families and caregivers of the troop - Goes above and beyond to ensure an inclusive and welcoming experience for all girls in the troop 			
Nomination Form Prompts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many girls have been in the troop for 4 or more years? 2. What are some specific activities that the volunteer has facilitated that has strengthened the bond between girls? 3. What are some specific activities that the volunteer has facilitated to strengthen the connection of families/caregivers to the troop? 			
Endorsement Form Prompts: 1 Caregiver Endorsement Required <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the most memorable way in which this volunteer positively impacted the girls in the troop, specifically aligned to the Lasting Sisterhood Award? 2. What are some examples of how this volunteer built girls' connections to each other and the Girl Scout community? 3. How has this volunteer impacted you, your Girl Scout, and/or the Girl Scout Troop? 			
Nomination Form LINK		Endorsement Form LINK	Endorsement Form Template

Award: Roots to Wings Honor		Eligible Positions: Troop Leaders	
Leaders who have been with their troop from Daisy/Brownie all the way through to Ambassadors.			
Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Registered GSEP Volunteer - Has been a leader with the troop from when at least 3 girls in the troop were Brownies or younger - Currently leads a troop where at least 3 girls are currently ambassadors. - Has made a significant impact on their troop and performed outstanding work. 			
Nomination Form Prompts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does this Troop Leader currently have at least 3 girls who are currently Ambassadors and started as Brownies or younger? - Has this Troop Leader been in the Troop Leader role from when current Ambassadors were Brownies or younger? 			
Nomination Form LINK		No Endorsements Needed	

Award: Troop Top Cookie	Eligible Positions: Troop Cookie Managers	
This award honors Troop Cookie Managers who have gone above and beyond in their support of the Girl Scout Cookie Program, including being a cookie expert in their community, supporting others throughout the Cookie Program, encouraging girl-led activity and entrepreneurship throughout the Cookie Program, and facilitating Cookie Program engagement in their community.		
<p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Registered GSEP Volunteer and Troop Cookie Manager (TCM) - Has made a positive impact on his/her troop or service unit Cookie Program. - Has provided outstanding service related to the success of the Cookie Program. - Has exhibited strong communications with families, the Service Unit, and the Council and troops regarding the Cookie Program. - Has modeled honesty and responsibility during every step of the Cookie Program including managing inventory appropriately. 		
<p>Nomination Form Prompts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give specific examples of how this Troop Cookie Manager went above and beyond their role. 2. Describe how this volunteer encouraged girl-led activity and entrepreneurship through the Cookie Program. 3. Describe specific examples of how this volunteer facilitated Cookie Program engagement in the larger community. 4. Describe specific examples of how this volunteer supported families and caregivers through the Cookie Program 		
<p>Endorsement Form Prompts: 1 Caregiver Endorsement Required</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the most memorable way in which this volunteer positively impacted the girls in the troop, specifically aligned to the Top Cookie Award? 2. What are some examples of how this volunteer built girls' entrepreneurial skills through the Cookie Program? 3. How has this volunteer impacted you, your Girl Scout, and/or the Girl Scout Troop? 		
Nomination Form LINK	Endorsement Form LINK	Endorsement Form Template

Service Unit Volunteer Appreciation

Healthy Service Units plan an annual Volunteer Recognition event, generally in the Spring, with the intent of honoring and recognizing the impact and effort of local volunteers.


All awards given by the Service Unit are...

- Purchased by the Service Unit
- Selected by the Service Unit
- Presented at a Service Unit Event


Awards Given by the Service Unit

The following are the awards granted by the Service Unit team for local volunteers. In addition to the four GSUSA/GSEP formal awards below, Service Units can choose to create and present additional awards designed by the Service Unit.


VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

	<p>The GSUSA Volunteer of Excellence Award recognizes a volunteer who has contributed outstanding service while partnering directly with girls in any pathway to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.</p>
<p>Criteria:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The candidate is an active, registered Girl Scout member. - II. The candidate has contributed outstanding service in support of the council’s mission-delivery goals in one or more of the following areas: Membership Development/Community Cultivation, Volunteer Relations and Support, Program, Leadership and Governance, Fund Development, and Council Support Service to girl and adult members. - III. The service performed is above and beyond the expectations for the position held. - IV. The candidate actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behaviors.
<p>Endorsements</p>	<p>2 Endorsement Required</p>


FRIEND OF GIRL SCOUTING SERVICE UNIT AWARD

	<p>The Friend of Girl Scouting Service Unit Award recognizes groups, community members, or individuals who have supported Girl Scouting in the community by offering meeting space, troop sponsorship, storage facilities, or another token of support.</p>
<p>Criteria:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The recipient does not need to be a registered Girl Scout. - II. The service performed by the candidate is above and beyond the expectations for the - business or organization
<p>Endorsements</p>	<p>2 Endorsements Required</p>

NUMERAL GUARD (5-30 Years)

	<p>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.</p>
<p>Criteria:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Years do not need to be consecutive - Pins are available in five-year increments - Form required for adults only. To purchase pins for girls, contact any GSEP Retail Shop. - Individuals track their total years and work with their service unit to receive their pin(s)
<p>Submission Form</p>	<p>LINK</p>

YEARS OF SERVICE PIN (5-20 Years)

	<p>The Years of Service Pin is a longevity recognition for an adult volunteer's dedication to Girl Scouting</p>
<p>Criteria:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Years do not need to be consecutive - Pins are available in five-year increments - Individuals track their total years and work with their service unit to receive their pin(s)
<p>Submission Form</p>	<p>LINK</p>

Service Unit Process

Each Service Unit typically appoints a Recognitions Coordinator or appointee who will manage the volunteer recognition for their area. Service Units determine their own timeline for nomination deadlines and awards presentation. They will manage the approval and next steps for each recognition.

Suggested documentation for formal awards

- [Service Unit Awards Nomination Form](#)
- [Service Unit Awards Endorsement Forms](#) (2 per nomination)

Purchasing the Formal Awards

The Service Unit can purchase the awards at any time at any GSEP Retail Shop. The cost of pins is the responsibility of the Service Unit and subject to change.

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| - Volunteer of Excellence Pin | \$20.00 |
| - Friend of Girl Scouting Service Unit | FREE |
| - Membership Numeral Guard | \$4.00-4.25 |
| - Years of Service Pin | \$6.50-7.00 |

Frequently Asked Questions

Where are the details for other Council Wide Awards?

We are using this first set of awards to test out several new aspects of our volunteer awards program. We'll release information about the Council Excellence and Legacy Awards closer to the start of the new membership year. Nominations for those awards will open on 10/1.

How will you decide who is granted an award?

All award winners are selected by the Volunteer Adult Recognition Committee. This group of volunteers will review all the award nominations and endorsements, compare them to the criteria, and determine the volunteers who most robustly reflect the spirit of the award. Only complete nominations with the required number of endorsements will be considered.

If someone I nominated does not win, can I receive feedback about the rationale?

Depending on the volume of award nominations, we will attempt to provide some general information about why awards were not granted to specific volunteers. If there are a significant number of nominations, that feedback may be somewhat delayed.

Will nominees know if they win an award in advance of the event?

Yes! We plan to inform all award winners prior to the event where we will honor winners. At that time, we'll share information about how to join the specific event honoring them.

What if a nominee wins, but cannot attend the event?

We will ensure all winners receive their award and any additional information that goes along with that reward by mail or with a delivery to a Service Unit meeting.

Who can nominate a volunteer for an award? Nominations can be made by other volunteers, caregivers, and Girl Scouts. A volunteer cannot nominate themselves or have a family member nominate them. Additionally, GSEP staff cannot nominate volunteers.

Who is an appropriate person to endorse a nominee for an award? Nominators cannot also endorse a nominee. Additionally, volunteers being nominated cannot endorse themselves. Family members and GSEP staff cannot serve as endorsers. For any troop level awards, the endorser must be a caregiver of a Girl Scout in the troop. For Service Unit and Council Level awards endorsers can be other volunteers, Girl Scouts, or caregivers.

What happens if an endorsement or nomination is incomplete or submitted late? Only nominations and endorsements fully completed by the deadline will be considered to win an award.

What happens once a nomination or endorsement is submitted?

Upon submission, you will receive a confirmation email to the email address you provided in the form. Nominations will be reviewed throughout June. Winners of Service Unit Level Awards will be notified by the end of July and will be presented their awards during the Service Unit Leadership Kick Off at Valley Forge on 8/9/26. Winners of the Troop Level Awards will be notified by late September and will be invited to join the Fall Adult Lead and Learn at Laughing Waters on 10/24/26 to receive their award.

How do I submit my Years of Service and/or Numeral Guard information?

Click on the below links to submit your Years of Service and Numeral Guard. Years of Service 25 and above and Numeral Guard 35 and above will be celebrated during the Council Excellence and Legacy Awards in May 2027.

- [Numeral Guard 5-30](#)
- [Numeral Guard 35 and above](#) – purchased and honored by Council
- [Years of Service 5-20](#)
- [Years of Service 25 and above](#) – purchased and honored by Council