

2024 Adult Recognitions Guide



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
A Philosophy of Adult Recognitions in Girl Scouting	4
Attitude of Appreciation	5
Which Recognition is Appropriate?	6
Award Nomination Process	7
Awards Given by the Service Unit	9
Troop Leader Award	9
GSUSA Volunteer of Excellence Award	9
Rookie of the Year Award	10
Green Knight Award	10
Awards Given by Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma	11
GSUSA Appreciation Pin	11
GSUSA Honor Pin	11
GSUSA Thanks Badge	12
GSUSA Thanks Badge II	12
GSUSA President's Award	13
Outstanding Community Service to Girl Scouts Award	14
Earned Recognitions/Awards	15
Membership Numeral Pin	15
Volunteer Years of Service Pin	15
Suggestions of Who Might be Nominated for Council and GSUSA Awards	16
Writing Endorsement Letters	18
Helpful Hints for Writing Endorsement Letters	19
Some Ways to say "Thank You"	20
Nomination Forms	22
Request for Membership Numeral Pin (#473F)	
Request for Volunteer Years of Service Pin (#471F)	
Service Unit Award Adult Recognition Nomination Form (#472F)	
Council Award Adult Recognition Nomination Form (#470F)	
Outline for Letter of Endorsement (#474T)	

Adult Recognitions Overview 2021

President's Award Application (#211F)

Introduction

People want and deserve appreciation for the work they do. Whether it is in the form of a simple "Thank you" for a small job well done, or a formal commendation for their years of faithful service in a key position of an organization, such acknowledgement is a signal to the recipient that they are noticed, appreciated, and recognized. – Taken from *Adult Recognition in Girl Scouting*, GSUSA Publication.

Adults join Girl Scouting to be of service to girls and to the organization itself. They offer their time, talents, and skills to our council. Their reward is in giving, in their association with girls, and with other adults who are also dedicated to a higher purpose.

When an individual, or group, in Girl Scouting has served with unusual distinction, special thanks are often called for.

The appropriate recognition for adult volunteer contributions is a process that the Girl Scout council takes very seriously. It is expressed on a year-round basis, in a multitude of ways when we:

- Have a genuine attitude of appreciation.
- Write personalized thank-you notes.
- Provide training opportunities.
- Award certificates of appreciation.
- Encourage personal growth.
- Ask them to help with training others.
- Put them in charge of projects.
- Write letters of reference.
- Give tokens of appreciation.
- Celebrate at year-end parties.
- Say "Thank You."

We know that what happens 365 days a year has much more impact than what happens at our Council Annual Adult Recognitions Event.

We also realize that formalized recognition is appropriate and serves to reinforce the qualities and service that we value. Official recognitions provide the means to acknowledge individuals and service team members publicly for their outstanding service.

Please use this guide as a reference tool. All forms necessary to begin the recognition process are provided in the booklet and can also be obtained online at www.gseok.org. If you have any questions, please contact the Volunteer Services department at adultrecogntions@gseok.org

No matter what form the recognition takes, the message is the same, "You are important to me and to Girl Scouting. Thank you."

A Philosophy of Adult Recognitions in Girl Scouting

The purpose of recognition in Girl Scouting is to facilitate, acknowledge, credit, and celebrate the achievements of volunteers. Recognitions accent the spirit of volunteerism, which results in renewed motivation, commitment, and retention. There are a few things to consider in recognizing volunteers:

- Many kinds of contributions must be considered.
- Quality of accomplishments is the primary determining factor in awarding recognition.
- Quality is not judged by length of service or number of other recognitions; it is ultimately a function of impact, direct or indirect, with girls.
- Recognition is given to reinforce high expectations and encourage continual improvement. It is not a competition.
- Recognitions create a strategic advantage because they identify those who model the future.
- Publicly honoring adults emphasizes Girl Scouting's vitality in the community. It encourages
 greater involvement and support from other adults and organizations, all with the goal of
 building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Awards for adult volunteers:

- Membership Numeral Pin
- Volunteer Years of Service Pin
- Volunteer of Excellence Award
- Troop Leader Award
- Rookie of the Year Award
- Green Knight Award
- Appreciation Pin
- Honor Pin
- Thanks Badge
- Thanks Badge II
- President's Award

Attitude of Appreciation

Giving and receiving recognition is a critical part of the Girl Scout program. Adults need to know that the work they do on behalf of the organization is valued. Whether it is a formal GSUSA award, a local recognition, or a token of appreciation, it is imperative that service units and the council create an atmosphere and attitude of appreciation.

Why recognize volunteers? Appreciation is an on-going, everyday process for anyone, anywhere, anytime. Showing appreciation for one another is a good way to show respect, to relate to each other's strengths, and to build mutual commitment. We give our time, skills, knowledge, friendliness, and love for many reasons. One reason is that it makes us feel good.

People don't volunteer because they expect a reward – they see a job to be done and they do it! Anyone who gives time to ensure that the Girl Scout experience is positive for girls is someone we appreciate.

Who deserves to be recognized? The answer is clear – anyone. Any registered adult or group that has been of service may be considered for recognition. Do you know a person or group?

- Whose service goes above and beyond?
- Who exceeds expectation?
- Whose contributions are significant?
- Who is a model of outstanding performance?

Consider taking the time to say "thank you" in one way or another.

When is recognition appropriate? When an individual or group in Girl Scouting has served with unusual distinction, official recognition may be appropriate. But, appropriate recognition need not be just an occasional, formal activity. All volunteers benefit from the expressions of gratitude which come from those they work with or those especially made by a girl or troop/group. On a day-to-day basis, a simple thank you is valued and sometimes counts more than the occasional recognition. When and how a recipient is recognized will make the expression of gratitude memorable.

Honoring adults publically highlights Girl Scouting's vitality in the community. Recognizing volunteers' contributions, regardless of the pathway taken to join Girl Scouting (short-or long-term, direct-or indirect-service):

- Encourages greater involvement and support from other adults and organizations.
- Motivates volunteers to participate and continue their participation as fully as possible.
- Acknowledges the accomplishments of individuals whose actions have moved the organization forward by building the diversity and/or capacity of the Girl Scout council.
- Encourages and supports learning.

The volunteer recognitions system is designed to be a valuable component of every volunteer support system. It offers visible acknowledgement of significant service.

Who can you recognize today?

Which Recognition is Appropriate?

Acceptance of any position, whether done on a paid or volunteer basis, implies a willingness to perform duties stated in the position description and to devote the time necessary to perform those duties under normal circumstances. Therefore, while doing a "good job" and putting in many hours is certainly worth thanks, it does not necessarily indicate performance "above and beyond the expectations" of the position.

Focus of service: Focus refers to the areas or groups benefitting from the service. In many cases, a volunteer works with a troop/group and or coordinates service unit events, and/or participates on a council-wide committee or task group. To help determine which award is appropriate:

- Review award descriptions and criteria on the "Adult Recognitions Overview" at the end of this guide.
- Review the chart "Suggestions of Who Might Be Nominated for Council and GSUSA Awards" on page 17.

Impact of Service: When you consider impact, consider both the number of years in a position and the results of a person's service. Length of time in a position, while always deserving of appreciation, does not necessarily justify an official award. The results of service are more important than the length of service, but often it takes some time in positions before the person can achieve truly outstanding results.

Time of service that is less than the recommendation may be compensated for by exceptionally strong service at the level expected for a given award. In other words, truly outstanding service might make up for less time in a position, but alone cannot make up for less than outstanding service.



The desire to recognize all dedicated volunteers must be balanced with an obligation to preserve the value of the recognition. It is recommended that there be a minimum of two years between awards of an individual. Consider using informal recognitions between awards to encourage great volunteers to continue serving while they grow in the Girl Scout organization. Please review the information contained in this guide and carefully select the appropriate award that supports the nominees' level of outstanding service.

Award Nomination Process

STEP 1: IDENTIFY NOMINEES Select candidate(s) for nomination: ☐ Nominees must be registered Girl Scouts. □ Note service unit position held by nominee and length of time in position. ☐ Reference volunteer position descriptions to research nominees position responsibilities. ☐ Identify which volunteers go "above and beyond" their position responsibilities. **STEP 2: RESEARCH NOMINEES** Talk to your service unit manager, service unit recognition chair or other service unit volunteer about the nominee. Get as much information about their volunteer roles and responsibilities as possible. ☐ What additional service unit positions has the nominee held within the service unit? ☐ Has the nominee received any awards in the past? If so, when and which award? ☐ Has it been a minimum of two years since the nominee received an award? STEP 3: SELECT THE AWARD Once you have researched and selected your nominee: ☐ Review the criteria for each award. Which one award does the nominee meet all the criteria for? ☐ Refer to the Adult Recognitions Guide for information on what the nomination packet must include, as well as the required number of endorsement letters for the selected award. STEP 4: COMPLETE THE NOMINATION PACKET Prepare required documentation: ☐ Complete the Adult Recognitions Nominations Form (#470F) ☐ Identify the person that will write a letter of endorsement (#474T). When selecting an endorsee, ensure they are: o Familiar with the nominee's work in relation to the award criteria. Able to write their expressions clearly and concisely. ☐ Ask the selected person to write a letter of endorsement. ☐ Provide the endorser with award criteria, position description of the nominee, and a timeframe as to when it should be returned to the nominator. *Timeliness is essential. ☐ Collect all endorsement letters and attach them to the Adult Recognitions Nomination Form.

☐ Review nomination packet for completeness and ensure endorsement letters support criteria of

 If endorsement letter does not support award criteria, request a new letter from endorser with suggestions on how to make it a more supportive of the criteria.

award.

☐ This completes the nomination packet.

☐ Photocopy completed nomination packet for your records.

STEP 5: SUBMIT COMPLETED PAPERWORK

Ensure all paperwork is received by the deadline. Submitting nominations that are incomplete or missing paperwork may result in your nominee not being recognized.

☐ Service unit approved awards:

 Service unit recognitions chairperson forwards completed nomination paperwork, as well as any required endorsement letters, to the Volunteer Services department for review.

☐ Board approved awards:

 Submit final nomination packet to: Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma 4810 South 129th East Avenue Tulsa, OK 74134

 Completed nomination packet must arrive at the address by 4:30 p.m. on December 31, 2023.

STEP 6: RECEIVE NOMINATION RESULTS

The results are in!

- ☐ Service unit approved awards:
 - Service unit team verifies submitted nomination paperwork.
 - The approved Adult Recognition Nomination Form and required endorsement letter is forwarded to the local service unit manager.
 - Service unit purchases award at the GSEOK council store.
- ☐ Board approved awards:
 - Volunteer Services confirms nomination packet is complete.
 - Volunteer Services forwards completed nomination packet to the GSEOK recognitions committee for review comprised of past award recipients.
 - Nominator is informed of GSEOK recognitions committee's recommendation should it be different than submitted.
 - GSEOK recognitions committee submits final recommendations to the GSEOK board of directors, who vote to accept submitted nominations.
 - Nominator is informed of board's final decision. Approved awards are presented at the GSEOK Annual Showcase – Adult Recognitions Event.

Awards Given by the Service Unit

Troop Leader Award

This Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma award recognizes leaders who fulfill the Troop Leader Agreement (form #210F), which contains commitments to quality leadership and troop program.

Criteria:

- The nominee is a registered Girl Scout adult.
- The nominee has fulfilled all terms of the Troop Leader Agreement.
- The nominee demonstrates competence in girl/adult partnership, communication, membership development, pluralism, and program delivery.

Approval:

- 1. The service unit manager and/or service unit recognitions committee confirms the troop leader has fulfilled all aspects of the Troop Leader Agreement.
- 2. The service unit manager submits a listing of all award recipients to the Volunteer Services department.

Form of recognition: A different pin is awarded each year.

GSUSA Volunteer of Excellence Award



The Volunteer of Excellence Award recognizes those volunteers who have contributed outstanding service while partnering directly with girls in any pathway to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through use of the National Program Portfolio or who have contributed outstanding service in support of the council's mission delivery to girl and adult members.

Criteria:

- The nominee is an active, registered adult Girl Scout.
- The nominee has successfully completed a term of service and all requirements for the position.
- The nominee has performed beyond expectations for the position to deliver the GSLE to girls using the National Program Portfolio, or
- The nominee's performance has been beyond the expectations of the position and has supported GSEOK's mission delivery goals in one or more of the following functional areas: Membership Development/Community Cultivation, Volunteer Services and Support, Program, Leadership and Governance, Fund Development, and Council Support Services (such as IT, Customer Service, Merchandising, and MarComm).
- The nominee actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behavior.

Based on the nominee's position (council, regional, or local level), the service team or recognition committee reviews the nomination documentation, then approves or denies it.

Form of Recognition: The Volunteer of Excellence Award is a silver-tone round pin depicting the Girl Scout logo trimmed with the words "Volunteer of Excellence."

Rookie of the Year Award



The Rookie of the Year Award recognizes adult volunteers new to Girl Scouting and to Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma. The presentation is at a Service Unit Recognition Event. Girls from the troop/group should be included. A maximum of two awards may be awarded per year.

Criteria:

- The nominee is a registered Girl Scout volunteer adult or staff member who has been a volunteer for more than 6 months but less than two years.
- The nominee has inspired girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, and service.
- The nominee may be a troop leader, service unit manager, or exceptional board of director's member.

The service team or service unit recognition committee reviews the nomination documentation, then approves or denies it. The service unit is responsible for submitting Service Unit Award Recognition Nomination Form (#472) to the council and purchasing the award.

Form of Recognition: The Rookie of the Award is an oval shaped Juliette Low pin.

Green Knight Award



The Green Knight Award recognizes an adult male member who has given extraordinary or uncommon service in his community or in the Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma jurisdiction. The presentation is at a Service Unit Recognition Event. Girls from the troop/group should be included. A maximum of two awards may be awarded per year.

Criteria:

- The nominee is a registered adult male in the jurisdiction of Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma.
- The nominee has gone above and beyond in helping with a troop, service unit, or group.
- The nominee has performed at a level that exceeds the expectations of the position and is of the quality that warrants area wide recognition.

The service team or service unit recognition committee reviews the nomination documentation, then approves or denies it. The service unit is responsible for submitting Service Unit Award Recognition Nomination Form (#472) to the council and purchasing the award.

Form of Recognition: The Green Knight Award is in the shape of a standing green knight.

Awards Given by Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma

These recognitions requiring approval by Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma recognitions committee and the council board of directors.

GSUSA Appreciation Pin



The Appreciation Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. This service, which has had measureable impact on one geographic area of service, helps reach and surpass the mission-delivery goals of the area. (Two letters of endorsement required.) There is no limit on the number of Appreciation Pins given each year.

Criteria:

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

Form of Recognition: The Appreciation Pin is a gold tone square pin with the Girl Scout Logo.

GSUSA Honor Pin



The Honor Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, which has had measurable impact on two or more geographic areas of service, allowing the council to reach and surpass its mission-delivery goals. (Three letters of endorsement required.) A maximum of eight Honor Pins may be given per year.

Criteria:

- The nominee is an active, registered adult Girl Scout volunteer.
- The service performed by the nominee is above and beyond the expectations for the position held and made an impact on two or more geographic areas or service units in GSEOK.
- The nominee actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behavior.

Form of Recognition: The Honor Pin is a green enamel pin with a gold tone trefoil design circled by a laurel wreath.

GSUSA Thanks Badge



The Thanks Badge honors an individual whose ongoing commitment, leadership, and service have had an exceptional, measurable impact on meeting the mission-delivery goals and priorities of the entire council or the entire Girl Scout Movement. (Four letters of endorsement required.) A maximum of four Thanks Badges may be awarded per year.

Criteria:

- The nominee is an active, registered adult Girl Scout volunteer.
- The outstanding service performed by the nominee resulted in outcomes that benefitted the total council or the entire Girl Scout organization, and is so significantly above and beyond the call of duty that no other award would be appropriate.
- Have taken a leadership role at the council level in one or more of the following areas:
 - Increasing membership growth and retention.
 - Increasing the percentage of adult-generated funding in the total council income.
 - Increasing innovative program opportunities council-wide.
 - Developing broad participation in policy influencing through the democratic process.
 - Ensuring that inclusive behavior is recognized, understood and practiced at all levels.

Form of Recognition: The Thanks Badge is a gold filled enamel disc that can be used as a pin or worn on a ribbon or chain.

GSUSA Thanks Badge ll



The Thanks Badge II honors a previous Thanks Badge recipient who has continued to provide exemplary service in a leadership role, resulting in a measurable impact that benefits the total council or entire Girl Scout Movement. (Four letters of endorsement required.) A maximum of two Thanks Badge II may be awarded per year.

Criteria:

- The nominee is an active, registered adult Girl Scout volunteer.
- The nominee has received the Thanks Badge.
- The outstanding service performed by the nominee resulted in outcomes that benefitted the total council or the entire Girl Scout organization, and is so significantly above and beyond the call of duty that no other award would be appropriate. It is a way of saying thanks again to an outstanding individual who has contributed greatly and continuously to Girl Scouting.
- Service will usually have extended over a period of at least three years since receiving the Thanks Badge in one or more adult positions with sustained, continued service or increased services to the council or the Girl Scout Movement.

Form of Recognition: The Thanks Badge II is similar to the Thanks Badge and has a blue band inside a gold band. It has a red stone in the center. The recipient should either wear the Thanks Badge or the Thanks Badge II – not both at the same time.

GSUSA President's Award



The President's Award recognizes the efforts of a service team or committee whose exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience surpassed team goals and results in significant measurable impact toward reaching the council's overall goals during a membership year October 1 – September 30.

Criteria:

- 1. All service unit team members are registered adult Girl Scouts. The service unit team must comprise of the following positions:
 - Service Unit Manager
 - Service Unit Registrar
 - Service Unit Treasurer
 - Service Unit Fall Product Sale Coordinator
 - Service Unit Cookie Coordinator
- 2. All adult members of the service unit have completed appropriate training for the positions they hold or have demonstrated competence in those positions.
- 3. Overall membership of the service unit reflects the diversity of the community.
- 4. Overall girl membership for the service unit reached or surpassed the membership goal agreed upon by the service unit team and the recruiter by September 30.
- 5. Delivery of Girl Scout program is effective, resulting in the retention of 70% or more of girl members and of 70% or more of adult leadership.
- 6. All service team members support the Girl Scout Pathways framework ensuring all options for participation are encouraged throughout the service unit.
- 7. The service unit has evidence of maintaining and/or cultivating contacts in the community (i.e. scheduled talks to community groups/schools, participation at community events/fairs, community profile updates).
- 8. Service unit product sale reports are submitted on time.
- 9. Ninety-five percent of troops registered by March 1, 2023 participated in the council-sponsored Cookie Program. Service unit must provide a list of all registered troop/group numbers as of March 1, 2023.
- 10. Sixty-five percent of troops registered participated in the council-sponsored Fall Product Program.
- 11. One hundred percent of all troop financial reports were turned in to the service unit financial consultant or service unit manager by May 31, 2023.
- 12. The service unit team maintains an ongoing communications with troop/group leadership utilizing a variety of methods that serves the needs of the area adults (regularly scheduled meetings, email, mailings, telephone, etc.)
- 13. The service unit team maintains ongoing communication with all individually registered girl and adult members within the service unit.

- 14. Service unit encourages adult participation in fund development and has increased annual giving support to the council.
- 15. Supports volunteer appreciation within their service unit by submitting nominations for annual recognitions and/or hosting a local recognition/appreciation event for adult volunteers.
- 16. The service unit actively promotes the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards to eligible girls in their region and both supports and recognizes girls' efforts throughout the process.

Form of Recognition: The service unit manager will be awarded a certificate at the council's Annual Adult Recognition Event.

Outstanding Community Service to Girl Scouts Award

This award is the highest given by the council to non-Girl Scout groups, businesses or individuals who have contributed service to the council.

Criteria for selection: Service performed by a non-Girl Scout group or individual that is outstanding and beyond that which is expected from the community, with council-wide effect.

Nomination procedure: The following should be submitted together to the council's recognitions committee by December 31st.

- Nomination Form #470F completed by an individual or group familiar with the service performed.
- Two letters of endorsement from individuals which include the name of the nominee, the service to be recognized, and the significance of the service beyond that required by the position held. (Form #474T)

Potential candidates for the Outstanding Community Service to Girl Scouts Award might include but are not limited to:

- 1. A foundation that has given a large donation.
- 2. A company that allows its insurance department to supervise the council's insurance portfolio.
- 3. A firm that has given far more service to the council than it charges.
- 4. An individual who has given money, property, or time to the council.
- 5. Organizations providing extensive media coverage to Girl Scout activities and events.

There is no limit to the number of Outstanding Community Service to Girl Scouts Awards that may be given each year.

Form of recognition: The award is a framed certificate to be presented within the community. It may be presented at a service unit event or business or organization location, along with publicity throughout the council and community.

Earned Recognitions/Awards

Membership Numeral Pin



The Membership Numeral Pin recognizes total years of registered membership in Girl Scouting at five-year intervals. Years as a girl member plus years as an adult member are combined and counted towards this recognition.

Criteria:

GIRL SCOUT

10

- The candidate is a registered adult member of Girl Scouts.
- The candidate must have completed the years for which she/he is applying (e.g. the soonest you may apply for the 20-year pin is October 1 of your 21st year.)

Form of Recognition: The Membership Numeral Pin is a gold toned numeral that is attached by a chain onto the Girl Scout Membership Pin.

Membership Numeral Pins come in five-year increments. The 5, 10, 15 year pins are awarded at the service unit level and the 20 years and above pins are awarded to those in attendance at the Council Annual Adult Recognition Event. Volunteers may purchase pins in denominations below 20 years at the Girl Scout Store.

Volunteer Years of Service Pin

Recognizes a Girl Scout adult member for her/his years of active volunteer service at five-year intervals (5, 10, 15, etc.).

Form of recognition: The Years of Service Pin is a gold tone frame with the words "Girl Scout Volunteer" surrounding a white enamel circle inscribed with the number of years. It

may be purchased by the individual or by the service unit for presentation at an awards event.

This pin represents the number of years of active adult service, not simply paying membership dues. For example, if a person was a girl member for 5 years, a leader for 10 years and maintained her registration for another 10 years, she would be eligible for a Years of Service Pin showing 10 years. She would also be eligible for a 25-year membership numeral that combines girl and adult membership years.

Criteria for selection:

- The candidate is an active registered Girl Scout adult.
- The candidate was a registered Girl Scout for each year of volunteer service.
- An application is filed with the Volunteer Services department.

Volunteers Years of Service Pins come in five-year increments. The 5, 10, 15 year pins are awarded at the service unit level and the 20 years and above pins are awarded to those in attendance at the Council Annual Adult Recognition Event. Volunteers or Service Units may purchase pins in denominations below 20 years at the Girl Scout Store. Please complete and submit the #471F.

Suggestions of Who Might be nominated for Council and GSUSA Awards

Examples of possible candidates may include, but are not limited to:

Recognition	Suggested Nominees
Rookie of the Year	 A volunteer who stepped in to take a troop that lost its leader. They have worked to grow a stronger troop. A new volunteer that took on the challenge of managing the service unit cookie program by volunteering to be the service unit cookie coordinator. With his/her skills the service unit saw a 3% increase.
Green Knight	 A husband or dad that has gone above and beyond helping with a troop or service unit. A male member of the community that has delivered a program or special event to a troop or the service unit.
GSUSA Volunteer of Excellence	 A volunteer who planned and delivered four day camp performances, using content from the <i>aMuse</i> Journey, targeted to girls in underserved areas of the council. A volunteer who was recruited by IT to help with data entry sees an opportunity on her council's webpage to increase recognitions. She creates and launches a recognitions webpage increasing earned awards by 35%.
GSUSA Appreciation Pin	 A service unit manager whose management of the service unit has seen an increase in membership and a stable retention pattern over several years. A facilitator who has consistently provided exceptional service. A service unit product sales manager, who has promoted and managed a successful product sale program exceeding service unit goals for at least two years. A day camp director whose effective management results in an increase in participation by girls and adults over a period of time.
GSUSA Honor Pin	 A volunteer who recruits troop leadership from both traditional and non-traditional sources resulting in an increase and retention of girls and adults over several years. A volunteer who develops and implements an interactive pluralism program that helps girls and adults develop a greater appreciation of people who are different from themselves. An event director who implements a series of events and activities that brings girls together from different parts of GSEOK. A corporate volunteer who recruits co-workers to lead or sponsor troops/groups or provides career mentors for girls from underserved populations in the council. A board member who goes beyond the expectations for the position. A service unit manager whose management results in an increase in membership and a stable retention pattern over several years.

A facilitator whose events receive consistent high ratings resulting in increased participation by adults from several service units or geographic areas. An individual who directs a membership outreach task group with positive results, either in terms of membership or in targeted groups served. An individual who introduces Girl Scouting to the wider community through significant community action that results in increased organizational visibility and community support. A volunteer who plays a policy decision-making role at a consistently high level and attracts broad participation in policy influencing through the democratic process. A chair of the council's fund development committee who develops and implements a plan that significantly increases the percentage of adultgenerated funding for the council. A volunteer who establishes a successful collaboration with a local agency that results in increased program opportunities for girls from all parts of the council. A volunteer who contributes significantly to the total Girl Scout organization in the delivery of Girl Scout program on an operational **GSUSA Thanks Badge** level. A volunteer who initiates and successfully manages the delivery of Girl Scouting to underserved populations within the council's jurisdiction. A volunteer who has provided expansion of council training teams and opportunities that resulted in a significant increase in training effectiveness and participation council-wide. An adult who establishes a successful collaboration with a science center that results in increased STEM program opportunities for girls statewide. A board member whose continuous strong leadership in fund development has resulted in greater financial stability for the council. A member of a strategic-planning task group whose leadership inspires a pluralistic, visionary plan. A council facilitator who successfully implements several statewide or regional training events increasing participation especially from GSUSA Thanks Badge II underserved areas. A program consultant who after developing activities for girls councilwide, serves as director for an event with national participation. An administrative volunteer who initiates a volunteer support system that successfully retains members in the council and which has been replicated in other councils. A person who, after years as an outstanding council facilitator, worked for a term as a national volunteer facilitator. An adult that has initiated a program delivery system within the council that has successfully influenced retention and quality program and that has been shared with other councils.

Writing Endorsement Letters

If you have never written a nomination or endorsement letter for someone you may be wondering how to complete an adult recognition nomination form or write a letter of endorsement.

- What goes into a nomination?
- How do you take what you know about that great volunteer and express it in a way that someone who does not know the person will understand why she or he is so great?
- Just what is the recognitions committee looking for when they review the nominations?

Think about the following to help you think in:

Quantitative terms, such as:

- number of girls participating in an event
- increase in number of girls in a troop pathway
- increase in the number of families participating in the councils' family giving campaign or increase in dollar donations

Qualitative terms that tell:

- a story that demonstrates how the volunteer positively affected the life of a girl through Girl Scouting
- how a volunteer recognized the need to reach out to a group of girls and got them involved in Girl Scouts
- how someone provided leadership to help the service unit achieve a goal
- how someone stepped outside her or his normal position to provide a much needed service

Ask yourself – so what? Describe the impact of the actions of this great volunteer.

- Who was affected and how were they affected?
- How will what this volunteer did affect the council or the national leadership program?
- Were the volunteer's actions to be expected of her position or were they "beyond expectations?"

"Feel good" statements: Please refrain from using only "feel good" statements in your letter. It is difficult to determine if the nominee's service went "above and beyond" and warrants recognition without specific detail. Compare these two sets of examples:

Example 1

- A. "In addition to working with her Cadette troop, this nominee took over as service unit cookie coordinator when the previous volunteer resigned. It was a successful sale."
- B. "When the current service unit cookie coordinator resigned, this nominee volunteered to help. Although she had worked with the cookies for several years, she processed 19,000 boxes of

cookies with no errors. Through skillful management techniques her service unit achieved 100% troop participation and increased cookie sales by 40%.

Example 2

- A. "This nominee is a dedicated leader and an inspiration to all of us."
- B. "When her daughter bridged to Cadettes, this nominee formed a new Cadette troop whose membership grew rapidly to 40 girls. She enlisted the aid of several parents and trained them in girl ownership techniques. Under her leadership, they divided the troop into interest groups which included gardening, working with a Junior troop with girls using wheelchairs (taking them swimming and bowling each month), canoeing and camping. Girl retention has increased to 95% for the past two years.

Note that in each choice "B", the reader can see the specific results of the volunteer's actions.

Helpful Hints for Writing Endorsement Letters

Begin compiling your endorsement letters early. People need time to formulate thoughts and write good supporting letters. Give your letter writers a deadline before your deadline of December 31 allowing you enough time to review all letters prior to submitting.

Before writing the letter:

- Gather information about your nominee(s), and determine how many letters of endorsement are needed.
- Pay close attention to the award's requirements and specific criteria, identifying specifics to be addressed in the endorsement letter(s).
- If the nominee has received previous awards, find out what those were and do not duplicate the same endorsement letter. For example, if you are nominating a person for the Honor Pin, do not use the same information to support the receipt of the previously awarded Appreciation Pin. Provide examples of service given from the time the Appreciation Pin was received to the present.
- To help you understand what is expected and "what is beyond expectations" of the nominee's position, review their specific volunteer position description. This information can be found on www.gseok.org in the Council Forms and Tools under the Resources Tab.

Writing the letter:

- The letters should be more than one paragraph; however, try to keep the body of all endorsement letters to 150 words or less. Using bullet points is suggested.
- Consider what sets your nominee apart from other adults with the same responsibilities.
- Provide relevant facts, and specific examples that demonstrate the requirements of the selected award were met and the nominee went "above and beyond" the expectations of their position.
 Include statistics and as many facts and figures as possible to help the committee see the

- nominee in the best light. Remember, you are submitting your nomination to a volunteer committee that may not know the nominee.
- Focus on the nominee's individual contributions rather than providing an overall summation of their involvement. Being specific helps ensure the nomination is approved.
- Endorsement letters may not be written by the nominator. Nominators provide endorsement for their nominee when completing the nomination form. Endorsement letters support what the nominator wrote and should be in the letter writer's own words.
- If you are writing letters for multiple nominees, please make sure each letter is unique and speaks to that individual's specific service and value. Each letter must be from a different person. Identical letters with different signatures and/or multiple signatures will not be accepted.

Submitting the paperwork:

- Nominator reviews nomination form for clarity and completeness and ensures letters of endorsement support specific award criteria. Please submit only the number of endorsements required.
- Prepare nomination packet by attaching the nomination form with the correct number of endorsement letters. Nominations will not be considered if the nomination packet is submitted incomplete.
- Make a copy of the completed nomination packet for your service unit.
- Submit your nomination packet by the December 31 deadline!

Some Ways to say "Thank You"

Recognition need not be an occasional, formal activity. All volunteers benefit from the expressions of gratitude which come from those with whom they work or those especially made by a girl or troop. On a day-to-day basis, a simple thank you is valued and sometimes counts more than the occasional recognition. When and how the recipient is recognized will make the expression of gratitude memorable.

Some events to keep in mind for recognition would include:

- October 31 Juliette Gordon Low's birthday
- December 22 Thinking Day
- March 12 The birthday of Girl Scouting in the United States
- April 22 Leader's Day
- National Volunteer's Week the last full week of April
- Immediately following service rendered
- Year-end Court of Awards Ceremony
- Service unit meeting
- Special recognitions event
- Board or club meeting of an outside group rendering a service

Some ways to say "thank you" could include:

- a personal note for a job well done
- a package of seeds to recall their growth
- a photo moment of a special event
- homemade cookies delivered to their door
- a birthday-gram of clippings of things they are appreciated for
- a bookmark with an appropriate quote
- flowers from your garden to take home from a meeting
- a singing telegram from a group of Girl Scouts
- a phone call to say things are going well
- an invitation to join you for lunch
- a bulletin board display in your meeting place
- a "prescription" for a dose of gratitude
- a paperback written by their favorite author
- a holiday theme party (e.g. Thanksgiving in June)
- a quilt with patches made by several friends

- a coffee in his/her honor
- an "Academy Awards" for volunteers
- a booklet of coupons redeemable for treats from you
- an invitation to attend a special meeting
- a Valentine from a thankful colleague
- a song parody about her/him on tape
- personalized note paper designed and created by you
- a "warm fuzzies" sheet written by friends recalling traits they appreciate her/him for
- a "This is Your Life" presentation
- Breakfast in Bed on a special occasion
- A "Happy Birthday" potluck supper
- a cake commemorating the closing of a successful Girl Scout year
- presents from GSUSA
- a collage of keepsakes from a trip you shared
- your warm smile and a bag of "kisses"

Nomination Forms

Request for Membership Numeral Pin (#473F)

Request for Volunteer Years of Service Pin (#471F)

Service Unit Award Adult Recognition Nomination Form (#472F)

Council Award Adult Recognition Nomination Form (#470F)

Outline for Letter of Endorsement (#474T)

President's Award Application (#211F)



REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP NUMERAL PIN

(20 Years and above)

The Membership Numeral Pin recognizes total years of registered membership in Girl Scouting at five-year intervals. Years as a girl member plus years as an adult member are combined and counted towards this recognition. This request is for membership years totaling 20 years and above. *The Membership Numeral Pin (20 years and above) is provided by Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma.

Form of Recognition:

- Award is a gold toned numeral that is attached by a chain onto the Girl Scout Membership Pin.
- Twenty-year and above pins are presented at the Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma Annual Adult Recognitions
 Event.

Criteria:

- The candidate is a registered adult member of Girl Scouts.
- Total membership years must be 20 or more.
- The candidate must have completed the years for which she/he is applying (e.g. the soonest you may apply for the 20-year pin is October 1 of your 21st year).

Nomination:

- This form can be found at www.gseok.org in the Forms and Tools section under the Resources Tab.
- This request is completed by the candidate (self-nomination) or another adult member of Girl Scouts.

Submission:

Please submit this complete request form by December 31 via mail, fax, or email to:

Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma Volunteer Services Department 4810 South 129th East Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74134

Email: adultrecognitions@gseok.org

Deadline: The Volunteer Services department must receive completed request form no later than December 31, Forms received after this date will be awarded the following membership year.

Candidate Name:			Application Da	te:	
Street:		City:	State:	Zip:	
Home Phone:	Cell Pho	ne:	Email:		
Service Unit:	Positi	on:	Staff Member:	Yes	No
Please check <i>one</i> :					
20-year pin	25-year pin	30-year pin	35-year pin	40	-yr pin
45-year pin	50-year pin	55-year pin	60-year pin	65	-yr pin
70-year pin	75-year pin	80-year pin	85-year pin	90	-yr pin
	<i>unable</i> to attend the Girl S ase contact the Voluntee			cognitions Eve	ent to rec
Office Use Only: Volunteer Services Dat	re Received:		Volunteer Services Staff Initi	als:	

GSEOK 2024 Adult Recognition Guide



REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEER YEARS OF SERVICE PIN

(20 Years and above)

The Volunteer Years of Service Pin recognizes an adult member registered with Girl Scouts of the USA for her/his years of active adult volunteer service at five-year intervals. Only service years as an adult member are counted toward this recognition. Volunteers with fewer than 20 years of adult volunteer service may purchase the appropriate Years of Service Pin in the Girl Scout Store with approval from the service unit manager (or it may be purchased by the service unit). The Volunteer Years of Service Pin (20 years and above) is provided by Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma and presented at the Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma Annual Adult Recognitions Event.

Form of Recognition:

 Award is a gold toned pin with the words "Girl Scout Volunteer" surrounding a gold tone circle inscribed with the number of years.

Criteria:

- The candidate is a registered adult member of Girl Scouts and supports the Girl Scout Mission.
- The candidate must have completed the years for which she/he is applying (e.g. the soonest you may apply for the 20-year pin is October 1 of your 21st year.)

Nomination:

- This form can be found at www.gseok.org in the Forms section.
- This request is completed by the candidate (self-nomination) or another adult member of Girl Scouts.

Submission:

Please submit this complete request form by December 31, 2023, via mail, fax, or email to:

Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma Volunteer Services Department 4810 South 129th East Avenue Tulsa, OK 74134

Fax: 918-749-2556 ~ email: adultrecognitions@gseok.org

Deadline: The Volunteer Services department must receive completed request form no later than December 31 for the 20 years and above to be awarded at the council adult recognition event. Forms received after this date will be awarded the following membership year.

Candidate Name:			Application Date:			
Street: _		City: _		_ State:	Zip:	
Home F	Phone:	Cell Phone:	Er	mail:		
Service	Unit:	Position:				
Please	check <i>one</i> :					
	20-year pin	25-year pin	30-year pin	3	5-year pin	
	40-yr pin	45-year pin	50-year pin	5	5-year pin	
	60-year pin	65-yr pin	70-year pin	7	5-year pin	
above p	in. If unable to attend, pe Use Only:	ttend the Girl Scouts of Eastern please contact the Volunteer Se	rvice department.			

#471F

Volunteer Years of Service Pin (20 years and above)



SERVICE UNIT AWARD ADULT RECOGNITION NOMINATION

Service Unit Award:	□ Volunteer of Exc□ Green Knight A		☐ Rookie of th	e Year Award
Name of Nominee:			Home Phone: _	
Address:			Work Phone: _	
City/State/Zip:				
Position(s) held in Girl Scou	uting, if applicable:			
Troop #, if troop affiliated:	Serv			
Nominator(s) 1.		2		
Address:				
Phone: (W)	(H)	(W)	(H)	
Email:				
Please complete the following	ng, (you may add additior	nal sheets if neces	sary):	
Describe the specific audie	nce(s) benefiting from the	service and how t	hey benefited:	
List the impact and results	of this person's actions:			
For Service Unit Recognition	ns Committee use only:	Nomination	□ approved	□ not approved
SUM (or committee chair) S	Signature:		Da	e:
Print Name:			n:	
If approved, submit this sign	ned form to the council sto	ore when purchasi	ng pin.	
#472F 11/20				



COUNCIL AWARD ADULT RECOGNITIONS NOMINATION

Council Award:	□ Appreciation Pin	☐ Honor Pin	☐ Thanks Badge	
	☐ Thanks Badge II	☐ Outstanding Com	munity Service to Girl Scouts	
			ership Center by December 15.	
Name of Nominee:			_Home Phone:	
Address:			Work Phone:	
City/State/Zip:				
Position(s) held in	Girl Scouting, if applicable:			
Troop #, if troop aff	filiated:Ser	vice Unit:		
Nominator				
Address:				
City/State/Zip:				
Phone: (W)	(H)		(C)	
Email:				
Nominator must co	mplete the Adult Recogniti	on Nomination Form or	n the next page.	
award is listed belo Outstanding Co	the nominator must also sow. Dommunity Service to Girl So		ement. The number of letters re Appreciation Pin, 2 letters; Thanks Badge II, 4 letters.	equired for each
Name:	Phone:	Email: _		_
Name:	Phone:	Email: _		_
Name:	Phone:	Email: _		_
Name:	Phone:	Email: _		_
· ·	nitions Committee use only		approved □ not approve _ Date:	d



COUNCIL AWARD ADULT RECOGNITIONS NOMINATION

Name of Nominee:
Please give a detailed description of how nominee has delivered service beyond the expectation of the position
held:
Describe the specific audience(s) benefiting from the service and how they benefited:
List the impact and results of this person's actions:
Other information helpful in the selection process:

If more space is needed please feel free to add additional page.

GIRL SCOUTS OF EASTERN OKLAHOMA OUTLINE FOR A LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT

Submitted in support of (n	ominee):		
For (title of recognition): _			
Written by:			
Address:			
City/State/Zip:			
Phone: (W)	(H)	(C)	
Email:			
In what capacity are you f	amiliar with the nominee's perf	ormance/contributions to Girl Scouting?	
In approximately 100 word	ds or less, state your reasons f	or endorsing this nomination. Please inclu	ıde:
how the nominee's	performance has been outstar contributions have benefited 0 s or information that might be	Girl Scouting, and	



Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma 4810 South 129th East Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74134

President's Award Application

Award Year: 2020 Recognized Year: October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023

Servi	ce Unit	Nam	ne:					
Servi	ce Unit	Man	ager's Name (for recognized year):					
Addre	ess:		street	city		 zip		
Phon Did th		ice u	Email: _ nit complete these items?					
	Yes	No						
1			All service team members and leaders	are registo	ered Girl Scouts.			
2			All adult members of the service unit he or have demonstrated competence in for each service team volunteer on a service team.	those posit	ions. List names and dates training			
3			Overall membership of the service unit	t reflects th	e diversity of the community.			
4			Overall girl membership for the service unit reached or surpassed the membership goal agreed upon by the service unit team and the recruiter by September 30.					
5			Delivery of Girl Scout program is effective, resulting in the retention of 70% or more of girl members and of 70% or more of adult leadership.					
6			All service team members support the Girl Scout Pathways framework ensuring all options for participation are encouraged throughout the service unit.					
7			The service unit has evidence of main scheduled talks to community groups/sprofile updates).	_	=			
8			Service unit financial reports and prod	uct sale rep	ports are submitted on time.			
			Report Service Unit Cash Record and Report, Form #381F Troop Financial Record Reports, #300F	Date	Fall Product Program Reports Cookie Program Reports	Date		

9		Ninety-five percent of troops registered by March 1, 2021 participated in the council-sponsored Cookie Program. Service unit must provide a list of all registered troop/group numbers as of March 1, 2021.						
10		Sixty - five percent of troops registered participated in the council-sponsored Fall Product Program.						
11		One hundred percent of all troop financial reports were turned in to the service unit financial consultant or service unit manager by May 31, 2021.						
12		The service unit team maintains an ongoing communications with troop/group leadership utilizing a variety of methods that serves the needs of the area adults (regularly scheduled meetings, email, mailings, telephone, etc.)						
		Activity Date Activity Date						
13		The service unit team maintains ongoing communication with all individually registered girl and adult						
		members within the service unit. Explain how:						
14		Service unit encourages adult participation in fund development and has increased annual giving support to the council. Explain how:						
		Previous Year's Amount \$ Award Year's Amount \$						
15		Supports volunteer appreciation within their service unit by submitting nominations for annual recognitions and/or hosting a local recognition/appreciation event for adult volunteers.						
16		The service unit actively promotes the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards to eligible girls in their region and both supports and recognizes girls' efforts throughout the process.						

For recognition at the 2023 Annual Adult Recognition Event, service unit manager should submit this application by December 31, 2023 to The Volunteer Services department, Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma, 4810 S. 129th E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74134.

Adult Recognitions Overview 2023

Milestone Recognitions

These awards recognize a volunteer's achievement of specific milestones, such as serving five or more years as a volunteer or registering as a Girl Scout for five or more years. They may be requested by the recipient herself or may be given by a service unit or fellow volunteer.

Award	Purpose	Presentation	Approval
Membership Numerals (Year Pins)	membership in GSUSA	Annual Adult Recognition Event for 20+ years; Service Unit for less than 20 years.	Volunteer Services or Service Unit Manager.
	To recognize an active volunteer for her/his service as a Girl Scout adult.	Annual Adult Recognition Event for 20+ years; Service Unit for less than 20 years.	Volunteer Services or Service Unit Manager.

Awards Approved and Given by a Service Unit

Award	Purpose	Presentation	Approval
Volunteer of Excellence Award	To recognize a volunteer's outstanding work with girls or in support of the council's mission delivery.	Locally with an appropriate activity.	Service Unit Recognitions Committee.
Rookie of the Year Award	To recognize an adult volunteer new to Girl Scouting and to Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma that has gone above and beyond the call of duty.	Locally with an appropriate activity.	Service Unit Recognitions Committee.
Green Knight Award	To recognize an adult male member who has given extraordinary or uncommon service in his community or in the GSEOK jurisdiction.	Locally with an appropriate activity.	Service Unit Recognitions Committee.
Troop Leader Award	To recognize the fulfillment of the Troop Leader Agreement.	Locally with an appropriate activity.	Service Unit Manager.

Awards Approved and Given by the Council

Award	Purpose	Presentation	Approval
Appreciation Pin	To recognize active adult members who provide outstanding service to at least one service unit.	Council Annual Adult Recognition Event.	Council Recognitions Committee. Nomination and 2 letters of endorsement.
Honor Pin	To recognize active adult members who provide outstanding service to two or more service units.	Council Annual Adult Recognition Event.	Council Recognitions Committee. Nomination and 3 letters of endorsement.
Outstanding Community Service to Girl Scouts Award	To recognize non-Girl Scout groups or individuals for service to the council.	Council Annual Adult Recognition Event.	Council Recognitions Committee. Nomination and 2 letters of endorsement.
President's Award	To recognize the efforts of a service unit in moving its assigned area toward achievement of the council's goals	Council Annual Adult Recognition Event.	Completion of Form #211F with verification by Volunteer Services.
Thanks Badge	To recognize truly outstanding individuals who significantly benefit the entire council.	Council Annual Adult Recognition Event.	Council Recognitions Committee. Nomination and 4 letters of endorsement.

Thanks Badge II	To recognize a Thanks Badge recipient for	Council Annual Adult	Council Recognitions Committee.
	continued outstanding service to the entire	Recognition Event.	Nomination and 4 letters of
	council.		endorsement.