



Council Level Volunteer Awards and Recognition Handbook



Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

October 2024

For services performed through the 2023-24 membership year.

Thank you for helping the council recognize the many outstanding volunteers that contributed to our success. There are many ways to show your appreciation and say thank you; one of which is through the formal council-level awards. *Anyone*, including parents, troop leaders, staff members, and service unit team members can nominate a volunteer for an award.

Honorees are recognized at the 2025 Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition event for services performed through the 2023-2024 membership year.

At the council or national level, volunteers can be nominated for:

- Appreciation Pin
- Honor Pin
- Platinum Service Award (GSGLA specific)
- Thanks Badge
- Thanks Badge II

Council level recognitions also include:

- Numeral Guard – 30 years+
- Years of Service – 25 years+

All nomination forms are now available as eForms on the GSGLA website at www.girlscoutsla.org on the Volunteer Recognitions page.

The Nomination process is as easy as 1-2-3

1. **Decide which award is appropriate for the service.** An individual or group familiar with the service performed will submit the nomination form. The nomination can only be submitted through our council's eForm and **MUST** include specific information that demonstrates the nominees' service, its scope, and impact. It must be specific to the award being nominated.
2. **Gather the contact information of those people providing Supporting Endorsements.** Please make sure the people who will be supporting the nomination are aware that you have submitted their contact information. Have their email information ready when you fill out the nomination form. They will receive an email asking them to fill out a Supporting Endorsement eForm. They will be sent the email once the nomination eForm has been submitted. **IMPORTANT:** All Supporting Endorsements must be from someone other than the person who submitted the nomination. ***It is the responsibility of the person making the nomination to ensure that the supporting endorsements are submitted on time.***
3. **Submit the eForm** – No later than the first Friday in December. Fill out the form online and submit the nomination. The people who will be providing Supporting Endorsements will be notified via email so they can fill out the Supporting Endorsement eForm. The Supporting Endorsements using the Supporting Endorsement eForm are due by the second Friday in December – **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Please note for each award, the number

of endorsements will vary, and you will want to have contact information for those people ready when filling out the Nomination eForm.

Things to keep in mind:

1. The Adult Recognitions Committee can only consider information included in the eForm and the accompanying Supporting Endorsements. Keep in mind the nomination is being reviewed by a committee that might not know the individual.
2. Each nomination is considered on its own merit and is not rated against other nominations. The best nominations and endorsements include as much supporting information as possible. Facts and figures help the Committee see the nominee in the best light. **IMPORTANT:** The facts must be relevant to the award being nominated for. If they are nominated for Honor Pin, which recognizes service to more than one Service Unit, details about the nominee's troop should not be included.
3. It is recommended that there is at least three years between nominations of an individual.
4. When submitting nomination information, keep the supporting information specific to the award. As an example, since the Honor Pin is awarded based on assisting more than one Service Unit, information regarding her/his troop would not be relevant.
5. Although we want to recognize our volunteers frequently, we also want to make the awards truly meaningful. The awards are not meant as a steppingstone to another award. Volunteers should be recognized for their service and then nominated for additional awards for additional bodies of work.

What should you have ready before filling out the eForm?

- Basic contact information for the person you are nominating: Name, address, email, etc.
- Know the Service Unit of the person you are nominating.
- The contact information for the appropriate number of Supporting Endorsements for the award the candidate is being nominated for (nominator cannot write these).
- Make sure that your endorsers can and do complete their endorsements by the 2nd Friday in December as required.
- The candidate's specific accomplishments in reference to the award – what have they accomplished to be considered for this award? There are a minimum of three questions the nominator must fill out and the more relevant details, the better.

Questions? We're here to help!

Email us at: adultrecognitions@girlscoutsla.org

What are GSGLA's goals?

The awards mentioned in this booklet state a requirement of “Has significantly contributed to meeting one or more council goals in membership growth and retention, fund development, or increased community visibility.” Here are some ideas and examples of what each of those mean:

Retention of membership –Here are examples of meeting this council goal:

- A Service Unit offers a successful series of mini workshops on how to run a Brownie troop which resulted in Daisy leaders and their troops staying interested in the program and continuing to the next level.
- A successful event such as a Service Unit Skatebash kept a troop interested in continuing next year.








Community visibility – This can be anything that has Girl Scouts out in the community in a significant way:

- A volunteer who holds a Girl Scout summer camp at a local park where Girl Scouts are seen daily.
- A volunteer who organizes and carries out a community service project with her troop and several other troops would be examples of community visibility.

Fund Development – This can be anything that has raised money for Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles

- A volunteer who hosted an event to benefit GSGLA.
- A volunteer who is on the service unit team and increased the service unit's giving 25% over the previous year.

Volunteer Awards at a Glance

Name of Award	Description	When is due and what is required?
Numeral Guard 	For 30 years or more as a registered Girl Scout, in five-year increments up to 85 years. Presented at the council level.	Fill out eForm before first Friday in December.
Years of Service 	For 25 years or more as an adult Girl Scout volunteer, in five year increments up to 40 years. In 10 year, increments after 40 years and up to 60 years. Presented at the council level.	Fill out eForm before first Friday in December.
Appreciation Pin 	Recognizes outstanding service to at least one Service Unit or Program Delivery.	Fill out eForm before first Friday in December. Requires two Supporting Endorsements.
Honor Pin 	Recognizes outstanding service to two or more Service Units, a Region, or the Council.	Fill out eForm before first Friday in December. Requires three Supporting Endorsements.
Platinum Service Award 	Recognizes outstanding service to a Service Unit, a region, or the Council for at least three years since receiving the Appreciation Pin and either Honor Pin or Thanks Badge.	Fill out eForm before first Friday in December. Requires three Supporting Endorsements.
Thanks Badge 	Recognizes outstanding service in a leadership role to the Council or entire Girl Scout Movement over the last four years.	Fill out eForm before first Friday in December. Requires four Supporting Endorsements.
Thanks Badge II 	Recognizes outstanding service to the Council or National Girl Scout organization for at least three years after receiving the Thanks Badge.	Fill out eForm before first Friday in December. Requires four Supporting Endorsements.

Award details:



Appreciation Pin

- Two Supporting Endorsements must be submitted to complete the nomination.
- Has significantly contributed to meeting one or more council goals in membership growth and retention, fund development, or increased community visibility **in one geographic area such as a service unit.**
- Actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behavior.

Examples of possible nominees:

1. *A service unit manager whose management of a service unit or a geographic area has resulted in an increase in membership and/or retention over several years.*
2. *A volunteer that has served for several years on a service unit team and has exceeded the expectations of the position.*
3. *A manager of a successful product sale.*

Additional example of candidate:

At an event, a Troop Leader noticed that the diversity of the girls did not match the diversity of the community. She talked with her council staff and found that they had identified a potential for membership increase among the communities in her area. She partnered with the staff recruitment specialist to create and implement recruitment strategies to reach both girls and adults and new ways of work to support new members. As a result, girl membership rose by 14 percent and adult membership by 15 percent last year. While those new members participated in series and camps, 78 percent of them participated in troops.



Honor Pin

- Three Supporting Endorsements must be submitted to complete the nomination.
- Has significantly contributed to meeting one or more council goals in membership growth and retention, fund development, or increased community visibility **in two or more service units.**
- Actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behavior.

Examples of possible nominees:

1. *A volunteer who has collaborated with local businesses to implement a program that assists underserved Girl Scouts.*
2. *A volunteer that implements a series of events and activities, bringing together girls from neighboring areas.*
3. *A volunteer who holds a successful area-wide summer day camp*
4. *An Adult Educator who consistently provides outstanding enrichment and leadership development sessions to volunteers working directly with girls in two or more pathways.*

Additional example of candidate:

A Facilitator realized that although the council created online courses and resources on the GSLE, at volunteer meetings she heard comments indicating that many volunteers still were hesitant to use Journeys to deliver the GSLE to girls. She worked with the Member Services department to develop a GSLE Coach role, which would support all direct-service volunteers as they implemented what they learned in the courses and put Journeys into action. This role was piloted in four service units where, after the first year, Journey sales increased by 30 percent; girls shared the impact of 14 new take-action projects via the council’s website; and the volunteer-satisfactions scores increased by 12 percent.



Platinum Service Award (GSGLA Specific)

- Three Supporting Endorsements must be submitted to complete the nomination.
- Has significantly contributed to meeting one or more council goals in membership growth and retention, fund development, or increased community visibility **servicing their Service Unit or a region or the entire council for at least three years since receiving the Appreciation Pin and either Honor Pin or Thanks Badge.**
- Actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behavior.

Examples of possible nominees:

1. *A volunteer who has been a highly evaluated Council Adult Educator for several years.*
2. *A volunteer who chairs an annual Service Unit event that is well-evaluated over the last several years*
3. *A Service Unit Manager who, year after year, organizes for their region a successful, fundraising event to benefit the council as a whole.*



Thanks Badge

- Four Supporting Endorsements must be submitted to complete the nomination.
- Has provided outstanding service that benefits the total council or entire Girl Scout movement.
- Has taken a leadership role at the council level in one or more of the following areas **during the previous four years:**
 - 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.
- The service is so significantly beyond expectations that no other award is appropriate.

Examples of possible nominees:

1. *The director of a successful council-wide initiative that results in increased retention of girls and/or adults. This opportunity also resulted in significant positive publicity for the council and the entire Girl Scout movement.*
2. *A volunteer that helps establish a successful collaboration with a local business and/or youth serving agency that results in increased program opportunities for girls in all parts of the council.*
3. *A volunteer who establishes a new or revised component for the council's fund development initiatives which surpasses expectations and goals.*
4. *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.*
5. *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.*

Additional example of candidate:

A volunteer saw an opportunity to use Journeys to increase membership in one of the council's target markets through the camp pathway. She helped the council partner with local companies and groups to provide in-kind, financial, and volunteer support to build a Take-Action Tree House at each camp. She led a task group of girls to design and develop progressive programming, based on girl-led processes and Journey content, which culminated in take-action projects. The three-year project brought in 300 new Girl Scouts, a 5 percent overall increase in camp registrations the following year, 90 new volunteers, and new partnerships with 11 local organizations.



Thanks Badge II

- Four Supporting Endorsements must be submitted to complete the nomination.
- Since the receipt of the Thanks Badge, the candidate has continued to take a leadership role at the GSGLA council level. This distinguished service has been demonstrated by continuing to perform at the same high level, increasing the sphere of influence, or using skills and talents to move into another field of endeavor **during the previous three years**.
- The service benefits the total council or entire Girl Scout movement. The service is outstanding and significantly beyond expectations that no other award is appropriate.

Examples of possible nominees:

1. *A council Adult Educator who, after directing council-wide adult enrichment events successfully, implements a state-wide or Southern California training event.*
2. *A program consultant who, after developing math and science activities for girls' council-wide serves as a director for a math and science event with multiple councils.*
3. *A board member whose continuous, strong leadership in fund development has resulted in greater financial stability for GSGLA.*

Additional example of candidate:

After receiving the Thanks Badge, the volunteer from the Thanks Badge example above was motivated by the success of the Take-Action Tree House project and submitted to present this best practice at a GSUSA conference. She then served for the two years on a national task group

to help educate and support all 111 other councils to create long-term plans that integrate all council departments to implement the camp pathway to grow membership and deliver the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) through Journey use.

TIPS

DO...

- Help make sure your candidate receives the recognition they deserve for their hard work. Tell us all you can... The Adult Recognitions Committee can only work with what is in front of them. If you don't tell them about it, they won't know.
- Be results-oriented. Do not say that the candidate is responsible, friendly, etc. – tell the results they achieved.
- Explain your personal connection to the candidate. (“I work with her/him in my role as...”)
- Most importantly, only include information about the scope of work they are nominated for. If they are being nominated as an outstanding Service Unit Team member, the work they do with their troop, while appreciated, is not relevant and should not be included.

DON'T...

- Do not be vague. It is assumed that this is a nice person whom you like and think positively of. Otherwise, you wouldn't be nominating them.
- Do not write about the many positions the candidate holds unless the positions are relevant to the award, and you have personal experience collaborating with the candidate in that role.
- Do not make assumptions about the responsibilities involved with service unit level positions.
- Many service units divide duties among people who are willing to do them. It does not matter that a candidate does not do all the listed responsibilities. It is more important that she/he does them “above the expectation of the position.”
- Do not just look at the position description or the award requirements and tell us she/he does each of these things – these are considered part of the position and not above and beyond.

Questions on the Nomination eForm:

Appreciation Pin, Honor Pin, Platinum Service Award

1. Describe the service rendered and who benefited. Include how the candidate actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behavior.
2. How did this service significantly contribute to one or more council goals in membership growth and retention, fund development (including but not limited to alumnae, Family Partnership, Product Program, etc.) or increased community visibility.
3. Give the reasons this service was beyond expectations of the position held to provide outstanding service.

Thanks Badge and Thanks Badge II

1. Describe the service rendered and how the entire Council or Girl Scout Movement benefited. Include how the candidate has taken a leadership role at the council level during the previous four years in one or more of the following areas: membership, adult-generated funding, innovative programs, influencing policy, and inclusive behavior.
2. Give the reasons this service was beyond expectations of the position held to provide outstanding service.

Questions on the Supporting Endorsement eForm:

1. Share how long you have known the candidate and how you both became to be connected with Girl Scouts.
2. Describe how the candidate has met the level of service for the recognition they are being nominated for. Include examples of the candidate's performance showing they went beyond what others in the position have done.

Note: Review the award description above and speak to what the nomination is highlighting. Provide examples highlighting service to the service unit, region, or council and not troop leadership.

3. Explain how the candidate's contributions have benefited Girl Scouting.
4. Please add any additional comments that are relevant to the scope of work or recognition that could be helpful.