

2018 Gold Award Projects – A Sampling

This year, 291 girls earned their Girl Scout Gold Award in Greater Los Angeles.

Here are just some of their projects:

MASHA BEST, Reseda

Summary: “I wanted to establish awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), its impact, as well as what we can do together to prevent FASD. I have FASD and wanted more people to be aware of this disorder that is 100-percent preventable. My project included a workshop, an informational brochure which went to LAUSD high school health classes, and a website.”

KENNEDY BLACKWELL, Rolling Hills Estates

Summary: “My project was about the growing amount of homeless families in Los Angeles. I wrote and published a novel called Jayden's Shoes. The novel follows Jayden's journey as he battles moving from house to house and learning to overcome life's challenges. I hope my work will help inform people about youth homelessness, so aid can be provided.”

CAROLINE CALLAN, Temple City

Summary: “My project was inspired by my interest in becoming a park ranger for one of our national parks. For my project, I cleaned and restored the Juan Bautista de Anza Trail in the Santa Monica National Recreation Area. I added and repainted the posts along the trail, led hikes, and wrote an article for the park newsletter.”

KATIE CHIU, Sherman Oaks

Summary: “With my project, I aim to spread awareness about the importance of self-defense, especially for women. My project included hosting an interactive Krav Maga workshop and the creation of a website with safety tips and instructive self-defense YouTube videos. Through my YouTube channel, I've reached over 18,000 people around the world!”

JULIA CHUN, Redondo Beach

Summary: “For my project, I focused on changing the stigma associated with the homeless community. The focal point of my project was writing a book composed of short stories I collected through interviews. I hope that this book will break unjust homeless stereotypes and allow us to move forward in aiding our homeless communities.”

NAREH DEHARTOUNIAN, Pasadena

Summary: “I partnered with Focus on Children Now to provide 450 dental health kits for kids in Armenia. Through hosting a bake sale and concert fundraiser, I bought toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, and materials for pamphlets to teach the kids about dental health and nutrition.”

JACQUELINE GARRITY, Glendale

Summary: “I value foreign languages as well as the importance of welcoming immigrant students. For my project, I taught the Rassias language instruction method to ELD teachers and immersion students. I also shared a graphic novel about my foreign exchange experiences with English speakers to build empathy and motivate them to learn a new language.”

TALIA GOLDSTEIN, La Cañada

Summary: “I chose to combine my passion for dance with helping others. After seeing disabled children get turned down from studios, I provided classes for them and around 50 others at the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center's Camp Splash! In these classes, which spanned four weeks at two hours a week, my goal was to show the students that their disabilities don't need to stop them from doing what they want.”

ISABELLA IGNATIAN, La Cañada

Summary: “My project was inspired by my passion to help those in underdeveloped countries, lacking the many opportunities that we have here in the United States. I raised money to buy school supplies to send to Uganda in an effort to better the education of local village children.”

EMMA KESSNER, Culver City

Summary: “I worked with the Culver City reDiscover Center to create, prototype, and build a portable racetrack activity. This project allowed me to introduce younger children to STEM in a fun and engaging way, and will be utilized by as many as 300 students per year in 11 schools per semester.”

LAILA KHAN, Chino Hills

Summary: “I knitted beanies and collected toiletries for refugees arriving in Greece with the help of church groups, school clubs, and friends, knitting a total of 200 beanies. I hope my project has a major impact on Syrian refugees to make them feel loved and spread awareness.”

SOPHIE KIM, Glendale

Summary: “I directed and edited a short film about the experiences of LGBTQ+ senior citizens. Combining archival photos and footage with first-person accounts, my film is both a historical record of the community, and a contribution to the sociopolitical dialogue of today. By increasing awareness, I hope to increase acceptance and celebration of the community.”

DIANA KNOBLER, Montebello

Summary: "My project was inspired by my love of engineering and my passion for helping those affected by cancer. Using my background in engineering, I designed and built two ADA-compliant picnic tables for Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times, and raised over \$1,600 to purchase equipment for their instructional kitchen."

ISABEL PEINADO, Alhambra

Summary: "I painted a women empowerment mural to bring back arts education, remind everyone we are a country of immigrants, and empower women to seek any job they want. I chose 16 influential women of different backgrounds and cultures because I wanted everyone who passed by the mural to feel represented and connected. The mural became a historical site."

MIRANDA PLA, Los Angeles - Palms

Summary: "My project addresses the issue of bullying at my middle and high school. I interviewed students and created a 20-minute live action and animated film that incorporated their experiences. I presented my film in classes and started discussions about this issue and what can be done to combat bullying in schools so that students can feel safe."

RHEA RAHIMTOOLA, Sherman Oaks

Summary: "I built a therapeutic garden, focused on the five senses, which gives students with behavioral disorders a more prosperous learning environment. I hope my work will allow the Stepping Stones community to keep their students focused in the classroom and better educate them."

AUDREY RAULLI, La Cañada

Summary: "I developed and designed 100 reading kits for the Literally Healing program for Children's Hospital Los Angeles patients. I wanted to make sure the patients don't fall behind in their education while sick."

CASSANDRA REANO, Valencia

Summary: "I advertised my organization, created a video emphasizing their mission to combat domestic violence, and compiled a manual of their resources. I hope my work will allow greater efficiency within the organization and increase education of relationship abuse."

SARAH REEVES, Redondo Beach

Summary: "I wanted to give the California gnatcatcher a sustainable home where it can thrive in the Lunada Bay Canyon. Volunteers and I spent laborious hours pulling out invasive plants to create this

beautiful restoration, but it was worth the hours because now there is a safe home for these endangered birds."

SYDNEY REISCH, Pasadena

Summary: "I organized a fair that allowed Girl Scouts, schools, and the greater community to view a wide range of philanthropies where volunteers were needed. I hope that my project will help those philanthropies gain more volunteers and inspire more people to volunteer."

KATHERINE RIPLEY, Redondo Beach

Summary: "My project is a YouTube series focusing on self-care and self-love for teenage girls in our modern world. The series follows a group of high school girls as they learn key life lessons in love, confidence, sex education, and safety. I hope the work I've done will help others to change their perspectives on themselves and inspire them to better themselves."

CHLOE SMIGLA, Pacific Palisades

Summary: "For my Gold Award, I wrote and produced a fairytale for children demonstrating girl power with diverse, strong, female role models. I also made a documentary series entitled, 'Inspirational Women Talk to Teens.' Through my children's book and the documentaries, I hope to empower young children/teens to believe in themselves and their potential."

JOY UEHARA, Redondo Beach

Summary: "When I visited Pacific Elementary in fall 2016, I noticed a 3D printer collecting dust in the corner. When I was brainstorming my project a few months later, I recalled that printer and decided to make use of it. I taught elementary students how to design and 3D print through multiple workshops and a full-color manual inspiring them to pursue STEM."