

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Two LA-Area Girl Scouts Earn Rare Girl Scout Lifesaving Award** **12 year-old Cadette Alyssa (Chino) and 9 year-old Brownie Alma (Pico Rivera) awarded** **Girl Scouts of the USA's prestigious Medal of Honor**

**CHINO & PICO RIVERA, CA, June 15, 2018** – Two Girl Scouts from Greater Los Angeles—Alyssa Farrell (from Troop 10154 in Chino) and Alma Franco (from Troop 3314 in Pico Rivera)—have earned Girl Scouts of the USA's rare national lifesaving award, the Medal of Honor.

Alyssa, a 12-year-old Cadette Girl Scout, saved her friend Kylee's life by performing the Heimlich maneuver at a church retreat in October. Alyssa noticed her friend having a hard time breathing and asked if she was choking. Kylee responded with a nod and Alyssa immediately performed the Heimlich maneuver; on the second try, she was successful. "Everyone around me was panicking, but not Alyssa," Kylee said. Alyssa's calm demeanor and swift reaction saved Kylee's life.

Alma, a nine-year-old Brownie Girl Scout, helped save her father Josue's life by also acting calmly and swiftly during an emergency situation in April. Alma's father was preparing for the day when he felt his hand going numb, his speech slurring. While on the floor, Josue called out to Alma who immediately dialed 911 and very calmly described to the operator that she thought her father was having a stroke. She answered all of the questions and led paramedics into their home. "If it were not for Alma, I don't know where I would have ended up," Josue said. Alma's courage and focus during a high-stress situation is admirable, particularly at such a young age.

Recognizing both of these acts of bravery, Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles CEO Lise L. Luttgens presented Alyssa and Alma with the prestigious Girl Scout Medal of Honor on June 13 during a special pinning ceremony at the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles Headquarters in Downtown Los Angeles.

"These girls performed heroic acts beyond the degree of maturity and training to be expected at their ages," Luttgens said. "Girl Scouts are encouraged to be resourceful, skilled, and ready to help others—Alyssa's and Alma's quick thinking and exceptional judgment is inspiring to us all."

#### **About Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles**

Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles (GSGLA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, serves nearly 43,000 girls in partnership with 24,000 adult members and volunteers throughout the diverse communities of Los Angeles County and parts of Kern, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties. GSGLA is the largest girl-serving nonprofit agency in Los Angeles, preparing girls for a lifetime of leadership through access to key experiences, connections, and programs in entrepreneurship, life skills, outdoors, and STEM. To join, volunteer, or support, visit [GirlScoutsLA.org](http://GirlScoutsLA.org) or call 213-213-0123.

