

GIRL SCOUTS OF SOUTHWEST TEXAS Information Guide

BOARD APPROVED AWARDS

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

All forms can be found in the Resource Center and on-line under the Forms Page at www.girlscouts-swtx.org.

Volunteers can be nominated for one of the following council-level Awards:

- **Appreciation Pin**
- **Honor Pin**
- **Daisy Pin (*specific to GSSWT*)**
- **Thanks Badge**
- **Thanks Badge II**
- **Community Partner Award**
- **Outstanding Religious Leader Award**

Award Checklist

- Nominee is a registered adult member with a current background check screening on file. (Does not apply to Community Partner Award or Outstanding Religious Leader Award.)
- Nomination typed or neatly printed on official GSSWT nomination & endorsement forms
- Endorsement letters written by people who know the candidate's accomplishments well
- Included enough endorsement letters for the recommended award (NOTE: nominator may not write these)
- Explained what the candidate achieved in their volunteer position (not just their positive personality traits---friendly, helpful, etc.). Quantifying helps to tell their story. (# of girls or adults impacted, dollars saved, etc.)
- Explained how the candidate exceeded expectations for the position held (not just held it a long time). Quantifying results can provide a clear picture to the task group reviewing the awards.
- Submit entire nomination package (nomination form and endorsement letters) on or before the **last working day in November**. Please submit the information on official GSSWT nomination and endorsement forms and e-mail, fax, or hand deliver them to Volunteer Support at the Sally Cheever Girl Scout Leadership Center.

Questions about the volunteer recognition process?

Please contact Volunteer Support
customercare@girlscouts-swtx.org or (210) 349-2404

Fax: 210-349-2666

Information and forms can be found at www.girlscouts-swtx.org

Volunteer Awards At-A-Glance

Name of Award	Scope of Service	Procedure	Deadline	Presented At
Council Level Awards				
Appreciation Pin	Contribute to council goals in one geographic area or council initiative.	Nomination form and 2 letters of endorsement	Last working day in November <i>Information is submitted to Volunteer Support</i>	GSSWT Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony
Honor Pin	Contribute to council goals in two geographic areas or council initiatives.	Nomination form and 3 letters of endorsement		
Daisy Pin <i>(unique to GSSWT)</i>	Contribute to council goals for at least two years in two geographic areas or several council initiatives.			
Thanks Badge	Service council-wide or the entire GS movement.	Nomination form and 4 letters of endorsement		
Thanks Badge II	Candidate has received the Thanks Badge and service benefits the total council or entire GS Movement.			
Community Partner Award	Contribution to the achievement of council goals and objectives that specifically benefits the entire council.	Nomination form and narrative explaining contribution		
Outstanding Religious Leader Award	Provide support and visibility for Girl Scouting in their religious community.	Nomination form and description of service		Community recognition event
Community Level Awards				
Volunteer of Excellence	Contributed outstanding service while partnering directly with girls in any pathway to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience or who have contributed outstanding service in support of the council's mission delivery to girl and adult members.	Nomination form and description of service	Anytime <i>Information is submitted to Community Recognition & Learning Coordinator or Community Chair</i>	Anytime the Community Determines
Friends of Girl Scouting Award	Non-Girl scout member, business, or organization that contributes to council goals and GS visibility in one geographic area.			

- ❖ Since there are a limited number of formal volunteer recognitions, **it is recommended that there is at least a year between nominations of an individual.** The time between nominations can be recognized through informal recognitions.
- ❖ **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 task group see the nominee in the best light.

Award Details

Appreciation Pin (Two endorsement forms must be submitted to complete the nomination)

Examples of possible nominees:

- ❖ *A Community Chair whose management of a Community or a geographic area has resulted in an increase in membership and/or retention over several years.*
- ❖ *A volunteer who has served for several years on a Community Team and has exceeded the expectations of the position.*

Honor Pin (Three endorsement forms must be submitted to complete the nomination.)

Examples of possible nominees:

- ❖ *A volunteer who has collaborated with a business to implement a program that assists underserved Girl Scouts.*
- ❖ *A volunteer who implements a series of events and activities, bringing together girls from neighboring areas.*

•Daisy Pin (unique to Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas) (Three endorsement forms must be submitted to complete the nomination.)

Examples of possible nominees:

- ❖ *A volunteer who effectively participates in multiple GSSWT committees, events and meetings in various capacities.*
- ❖ *A day/twilight camp director whose effective management results in an increase in participation by girls and adults over a period of time.*

Thanks Badge

- **Four endorsement forms** 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:

- ❖ *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.*
- ❖ *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.*
- ❖ *A volunteer who establishes a new or revised component for the council's fund development initiatives which surpasses expectations and goals.*

Thanks Badge II

- **Four endorsement forms** must be submitted to complete the nomination.
- The candidate has already received the Thanks Badge and has continued to provide distinguished service by continuing to perform at the same high level for an extended period of time, or
 - increasing her/his sphere of influence, or
 - using her/his skills and talents to move into another field that benefits the council
- 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.

Award Details

Community Partner Award *(unique to the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas)*

- This award is for a **non-member adult or organization** whose interest in the Girl Scout movement resulted in superior contribution of time, talents, effort and/or resources which impacted the entire council and contributed to the achievement of the council's goals.
- A separate nomination form is used for this award.
- An additional narrative citing examples of the service and information about the audience benefiting from the service is required.

Examples of possible nominees:

- ❖ *A business or organization that contributed to increasing the Girl Scout visibility in the entire council area.*
- ❖ *A corporation or agency consistently donating space, supplies, staff time or money over time (not just a one-time donation.)*

Outstanding Religious Leader Award *(unique to the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas)*

- This award is for a **member OR non-member adult** who provided outstanding support and encouragement for Girl Scouting in their religious community.
- The candidate encourages parental involvement in Girl Scouts
- Nominee encourages Girl Scout visibility in the religious community
- The individual promotes a positive public image of Girl Scouts
- The individual has been involved with Girl Scouts for at least 2 years
- A separate nomination form is used for this award.
- An additional narrative citing examples of the service and information about the audience benefiting from the service is required.

Volunteer of Excellence

- The candidate is an active, registered adult Girl Scout.
- The candidate has successfully completed a term of service and all training requirements for the position.
- The candidate has performed beyond expectations for the position to deliver the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to girls using the national program portfolio, or has supported council's mission-delivery goals in one or more of the following functional areas: Membership Development/Community Cultivation, Volunteer Relations and Support, Program, Leadership and Governance, Fund Development, and Council Support Service.
- The candidate actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behavior.

Friends of Girl Scouting

- The candidate is not required to be registered adult Girl Scout.
- Award recognizes a non-member individual, group/organization or business outside of Girl Scouts.
- Support must have resulted in superior contribution of time, talents, effort and/or resources.
- Must have impacted Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas in a local community or single council initiative for at least one year.

It doesn't take many words to say a lot. In approximately 100 words you can give a good picture of service!

A good endorsement might go something like this...

Anna joined our Community 5 years ago. When she took over the Community Membership Recruitment Coordinator role on the Community Team 3 years ago, our membership was only 125 girls in 5 schools. Now the membership is 440 girls in all 15 schools in our area. More than 75% of the girls consistently return for another year of Girl Scouting. She started a Daisy Girl Scout program in 3 schools where no program was available to the Kindergarten girls. She was instrumental in getting 25 girls to join a Junior group that is still growing. The adult membership has grown from only 20 adults in 2006 to more than 86 today.