

**PRESS
RELEASE**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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120 Girl Scouts from central Maryland “Go for the Gold” and Earn Girl Scouts’ Highest Award: The Girl Scout Gold Award

Baltimore— 120 girls from central Maryland who are members of the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland (GSCM) council earned the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award—the highest award in Girl Scouting. The Gold Award is a national award that is granted to Girl Scouts who have fulfilled the rigid national standards criteria which scrutinize the time, leadership skills, creativity and effort used to bring their community service project to fruition.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is more than a good service project; it embodies the very essence of the Girl Scout mission—to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. In order to receive the Girl Scout Gold Award girls must conceive and complete a significant project that fulfills a need locally, nationally or globally. In doing so, each young woman utilizes the leadership skills she has acquired throughout her Girl Scout experience and showcases the organizational and life skills she has developed. Completed projects continue to have a positive, lasting impact on the community. For many girls the experiences learned, before, during and after the project, build a connection that fosters a sense of community and commitment that serves as the foundation for a lifetime of active citizenship.

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For 17 years GSCM Girl Scout Gold Award recipients have been recognized at a pinning ceremony with their peers, friends and family members. The ceremony, which took place April 29, 2007 at Michael's Eighth Avenue in Glen Burnie, is the culmination of all the work a girl puts into "going for the Gold;" it is her day of celebration.

Examples of this year's Gold Award projects are: creation of a website for a non-profit that provides emergency food and financial assistance to those in need; carving a canoe to enhance a local garden's Native American exhibit; sewing tote bags and filling them with books, markers and CDs for military children at a local naval hospital; traveling to San Bartolo, S.A. to deliver dental hygiene lessons to preschoolers; creating a listening library for students who have difficulty reading; and, developing a tennis clinic for children, which included constructing a tennis court and donating tennis rackets and balls.

"We are pleased and proud that so many girls have showcased the values and practical skills they have learned through Girl Scouting," commented Traci A. Barnett, CEO of Girl Scouts of Central Maryland. "Girl Scouts is a way for girls to develop friendships and have fun, but at the same time, it is also about developing leadership and citizenry skills that will make life better for the community—and ultimately, for each young woman that participates in scouting." Barnett added, "Each of these 120 girls exemplifies what Girl Scouts is really all about."

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Now in its 95th year, Girl Scouts of the USA is the preeminent organization for and leading authority on girls with 3.7 million girl and adult members. Girl Scouts of Central Maryland serves 30,000 girls with the help of 10,000 adult volunteers in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties.