



Girl Scouts, Hornets' Nest Council

HIGHEST AWARDS Ceremony

Thursday, June 12, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Oasis Shriner
604 Doug Mayes Pl
Charlotte, NC 28262





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WELCOME

to the 2024 - 2025 Highest Awards Ceremony

Congratulations to our 2024 - 25 Highest Awards and Scholarship Recipients!

These Girl Scouts identified issues they care about and led teams to create lasting impacts in their communities and beyond, exemplifying what it means to be a girl of courage, confidence, and character, who makes the world a better place.

As Highest Award recipients, each Girl Scout recognized in this year's program are world changers, rockstars, role models and real-life heroes, that others in our movement and community look up to.





ORDER OF EVENTS

Welcome

Stephanie Dunaway-Dickson
GSHNC Board Chair

National Anthem/Flag Ceremony
Troop 3209

Girl Scout Promise & Law
Troop 3209

Words from our CEO
Tayuanee Dewberry

Dinner
Served by Eloquent Creations

Silver Award Recognition
Lauren Ansley & DJ Jeff Taylor

Scholarship Presentation
Lauren Ansley & DJ Jeff Taylor

Keynote Address
Molly Barker

Gold Award Presentation
Lauren Ansley & DJ Jeff Taylor

Closing Remarks from our COO
Yolanda Bynum





Lauren Ansley

With a background in stand-up comedy and a passion for audience engagement, Lauren Ansley brings a fresh, authentic energy to business meetings, special events and conferences nationwide. She is a professional emcee, keynote speaker, and catalyst for connection, helping organizations create dynamic, fun and meaningful event experiences.

Lauren is the Founder of Ansley Corporate Entertainment, where she partners with organizations to elevate their events through humor, heart and high-impact facilitation. Her signature blend of authenticity, wit, and strategic, introvert-friendly engagement creates a space where attendees feel energized, connected and comfortable.

Lauren works with clients across the country and across industries - from tech to tourism to talent development - but her goal remains the same: to spark energy, inspire conversation, and keep audiences fully engaged.



DJ Jeff Taylor

DJ Jeff is a professional entertainer with a passion for energizing audiences and creating event experiences. With more than 20 years of experience performing at events nationwide, including corporate conferences and major national conventions, he brings an intuitive presence to every occasion.

Specializing in using music to set the tone, reinforce key messages, and connect people in meaningful ways, DJ Jeff is known for his ability to read the room and select the perfect music for every moment. His expertise ensures that every event is more than just background sound, music becomes a central part of the experience, helping attendees feel energized and engaged.

As a trusted entertainment partner for major organizations across industries, DJ Jeff is committed to making conference music memorable and impactful. He knows that music is a powerful catalyst for connection that helps attendees feel united and fully engaged throughout every event.



Molly Barker

Molly Barker is a renowned educator, social entrepreneur, and visionary leader best known as the founder of Girls on the Run International—a transformative program she launched in 1996 right here in Charlotte with just 13 girls. Inspired by her experience as a four-time Hawaii Ironman triathlete, Olympic Trials cycling qualifier, and her professional background in social work, teaching, and counseling, Molly created a life-changing curriculum that empowers girls to recognize and activate their limitless potential.

Since its founding, Girls on the Run has reached more than 2.25 million girls nationwide, instilling confidence, connection, and strength through movement and mentorship. In 2013, Molly stepped away from day-to-day leadership to serve on the Commission for Political Reform in Washington, D.C., where she launched The Red Boot Way, a national initiative promoting empathy, authentic communication, and healing across political and social divides.

Molly is a celebrated speaker known for her warmth, wit, and vulnerability. She is the author of three books, with a memoir in the works, and has received numerous accolades including the Distinguished Alumni Award from UNC-Chapel Hill, the Daily Point of Light Award presented by Presidents Barack Obama and George H.W. Bush, and recognition from Runner's World as one of the 50 Most Influential People in Running.

Today, Molly continues to lead by example, competing in cycling and duathlons, and living boldly with heart and purpose. Her journey reminds us all that when girls are empowered to lead with confidence and compassion, they truly can change the world.



Girl Scout Mission

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

Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God* and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring, courageous
and strong,
and responsible for what I say and do,
and to respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place,
and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

*Members may substitute the word God in
accordance with their own spiritual beliefs





2024 - 25

Silver Award Girl Scouts

When Girl Scout Cadettes focus on an issue they care about, learn the facts, and take action to make a difference, they gain the confidence and skills that will catapult them to lifelong success. It all adds up to the Girl Scout Silver Award—the highest honor a Cadette can achieve.

Girl Scouts who earn the Silver Award are among an exceptional group of young women who have used their knowledge and leadership skills to make a difference in the world.





2024-25 Silver Award Girl Scouts

Abby Arndt

Troop 3102

Claire Chen

Troop 2265

Kierra Hart

Troop 2303

Gabriellah Ashe

Troop 3097

Ainsley Childs

Troop 139

Brynlie Hicks

Troop 599

Tate Bailey

Troop 3209

Jaclyn Demkowski

Troop 1584

Abigail Hough

Troop 2262

Brooke Boyd

Troop 3209

Cydney Duncan

Troop 599

Aubri Huntley

Troop 3097

Kaylan Brickey

Troop 1599

Camilla Ann Eswein

Troop 428

Sadie Ianni

Troop 3097

Carole Burke

Troop 2234

Carmen Lana Eswein

Troop 428

Kara Kinne

Troop 2303

Jordan Burney

Troop 1319

Kiley Ferguson

Troop 2262

Natalie Klug

Troop 3097

Tessa Carroll

Troop 1599

Elizabeth Fernandez

Troop 1599

Kennedy Kocur

Troop 3102

Alida Carter

Troop 2303

Ella Gallagher

Troop 1948

Scarlett Kruse

Troop 2262

Elizabeth Casiday

Troop 22382

Mabel Garner-Lybrand

Troop 3097

Hailey Lemonis

Troop 453



2024-25 Silver Award Girl Scouts

Rebecca McCartney
Troop 2234

Jadyn Salyer
Troop 1061

Malani Vernon
Troop 1835

Elani McConnell
Troop 2740

Arabella Riley Santero
Troop 3097

Maiya Wagner
Troop 2262

Kara Medina
Troop 1319

Madeleine Saunders
Troop 1599

Susanna Weimer
Troop 139

Andrea Mejia
Troop 2234

Savannah Schnabel
Troop 2262

Yasmine White
Troop 1835

Ashlyn Micek
Troop 3097

Zoe Shaffer
Troop 2303

Phoebe Mills
Troop 2303

Sofia Shea
Troop 139

Chloe Moore
Troop 2234

Naomie Smith
Troop 267

Elaine Parker
Troop 139

Stella Stanley
Troop 2262

Tvisha Patel
Troop 3097

Abigail Stilwell
Troop 1061

Isabella Robison
Troop 3097

Rachel Travis
Troop 1061



2024 - 25 Endowed Scholarship Recipients

The following scholarships are awarded to Girl Scouts who have demonstrated commitments to academic excellence and community involvement.

In 2024 - 25, nine endowed scholarships were awarded to deserving young women in our council to support their higher education pursuits.



Norma Cannon Scholarship

The Norma Cannon Scholarship was endowed in memory of Norma Cannon by her children. Ms. Cannon was a lifelong supporter of Girl Scouts and its mission to help girls develop their leadership potential. To qualify for this scholarship, girls must demonstrate academic excellence and a commitment to community service. Completion of the Girl Scout Gold Award is preferred, but not required.

The 2025 Norma Cannon Scholarship is awarded to Kimberly Lisk.



Patti Belcourt Scholarship

The Patti Belcourt Scholarship was established in 2016 by Patti Belcourt, a dedicated troop leader, Gold Award Committee member, volunteer, and supporter of the Girl Scout mission. To qualify for this scholarship, applicants must be a current resident of Union County and must demonstrate academic excellence and a commitment to community service. Completion of the Girl Scout Gold Award is preferred, but not required.

The 2025 Patti Belcourt Scholarship is awarded to Kaylee Hong.



Harper Family Scholarship

This scholarship is presented to a graduating Girl Scout who has earned her Gold Award and has a strong academic record and commitment to community service. It was endowed in honor of Bert Harper, Board President from 2004 - 2010 by several of her colleagues at Bank of America.

The 2025 Harper Family Scholarship is awarded to Swarnim Maid.



Barbara Glazier Bernhardt Scholarship

The Barbara Glazier Bernhardt Scholarship is presented to a graduating Senior Girl Scout who has received her Gold Award and will attend an institute of higher education. The recipient has also demonstrated strong academic excellence, active participation in Girl Scouts and participation in non-Girl Scout activities. The scholarship was established In 1986 by Robert Bernhardt, honoring Barbara as past Board Chair and lifelong Girl Scout.

The 2025 Barbara Glazier Bernhardt Scholarship is awarded to Brooke Robinson.



Betty Lynn Lambert Scholarship

This scholarship is presented to a graduating Girl Scout who has earned her Gold Award and has a strong academic record and a commitment to community service. It was endowed in honor of Betty Lynn Lambert, Board Chair, from 1993-2000 by her daughter, Katherine.

The 2025 Betty Lynn Lambert Scholarship is awarded to Anushka Kagade.



Robert W. Maitt, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is presented to a graduating Girl Scout who has been a member of the organization for at least four years and who will attend an institute of higher education. The recipient must have actively participated in Girl Scout service projects to improve her community. It was endowed in memory of Bob Maitt by his wife, Michelle Maitt. Michelle is a former Board member.

The 2025 Robert W. Maitt, Jr. memorial Scholarship is awarded to Syrna Gose.



The Girl Scouts, Hornets' Nest Sisterhood Scholarship

The Girl Scouts, Hornets' Nest Scholarship was established in 2021 to honor those who exemplify what it means to be a sister to every Girl Scout. To qualify for this scholarship, applicants must demonstrate academic achievement and commitment to community service preferably with a multicultural or racial justice, diversity, equity and inclusion focus.

The 2025 Girl Scouts, Hornets' Nest Sisterhood Scholarship is awarded to Iyana Smith.



Marie McLucas Scholarship

This scholarship is presented to a graduating Cabarrus County Girl Scout who will attend an institute of higher education. Completion of the Gold Award is preferred, but not required. It was endowed in honor of Marie McLucas by her employer, Primax Properties. Marie McLucas has served our council as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance and Fund Development Committees, and is the current Board chair.

The 2025 Marie McLucas Scholarship is awarded to Anushka Kagade.



Jenny Zartman Memorial Scholarship

The Jenny Zartman Memorial Scholarship was established in honor of Jenny Zartman in 2007. Jenny's life was tragically cut short in 2006 and this scholarship was established in her memory by her family and friends. To qualify for this scholarship, an applicant must have been awarded her Gold Award and must demonstrate academic excellence and a commitment to community service.

The 2025 Jenny Zartman Memorial Scholarship is awarded to Addison McNeil.



2024 - 25 Scholarship Committee



Dr. Nicole Campbell



Eileen Dunlap



Tania Sanders



Dr. Naomi West

Thank you to our esteemed Scholarship Committee for
generously dedicating your time and expertise.



2024 - 25

Gold Award Girl Scouts

Gold Award Girl Scouts are change-makers. They have changed the world, changed their lives, and earned the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting.

When the project is complete, the Gold Award Girl Scout and their team have made a sustainable impact on the world that continues to last beyond their involvement. It's a huge accomplishment that also impacts the Gold Award Girl Scout as a person. How they see the world—and how the world sees them—is forever changed.

It's also a credential that will be with them for the rest of their life; having the Girl Scout Gold Award on a high school transcript or resumé can make a Girl Scout stand out when it comes to college admissions, scholarship applications, internships, and job interviews.





Abbie Conley

Go Green: Urban Agriculture and Sustainability

Troop 699

Abbie raised awareness about urban agriculture by revitalizing her high school's unused greenhouse and transforming it into an educational hub. She organized two hands-on workshops that taught over fifty participants about microgreens, backyard gardening, and greenhouse farming, significantly increasing their knowledge and practical skills. To ensure her Gold Award project's long-term sustainability, Abbie partnered with

the school's horticulture club, working with the advisor and student leaders to establish a maintenance plan and schedule annual educational events. The club also committed to growing herbs for the school's culinary program, ensuring that Abbie's efforts will continue to benefit the community well into the future.



Cassie Gilbert

Magnificent Monarchs

Troop 3555

The idea for *Magnificent Monarchs* was inspired by Cassie's deep love for butterflies and her concern about their endangered status. Partnering with NC Wildlife and Arbor Ridge retirement community in Huntersville, she established a Monarch Waystation to support the butterflies' annual migration between Canada and Mexico. This sanctuary features milkweed

and other native plants that nourish Monarchs, pollinators, and local wildlife, helping sustain critical ecosystems and a balanced food web. Cassie's collaboration with Arbor Ridge blossomed into an ongoing educational club for residents, who now gather monthly to care for the thriving habitat. To extend her impact, Cassie created a YouTube video documenting her Gold Award project and raising awareness about Monarch conservation, which she proudly presented to Arbor Ridge residents, the Mayor, and Huntersville Commissioners.



Logan Marker **Memorial Park Upgrade**

Troop 2160

Logan recognized a gap in her community's communication when she attended a town meeting and realized important information was shared only through social media, leaving many elderly residents without access to crucial updates. The town's existing sign was outdated and difficult to maintain, so through fundraising and collaboration with the town of Oakboro, Logan

helped install a new LED digital sign that can be updated remotely by town staff to easily share events and announcements. The impact was immediate—attendance at town hall meetings grew from a small group of about 25 to standing room only, eventually prompting the move to a larger venue. Logan's project ensures lasting community connection, with the town committed to regular updates that keep residents informed and engaged.



Addison McNeil **McAlpine Elementary**

Troop 2644

Addison's project was driven by her passion for healthy eating and her observation that many of her friends didn't eat vegetables because they didn't understand their benefits. To address this, she created the McAlpine Elementary School Garden Club, where she engaged students in building raised garden beds and taught them how to plant and grow their own vegetables.

Through hands-on gardening, Addison also educated the children about food groups and nutrition, fostering a deeper appreciation for healthy eating. The club experienced measurable growth, increasing attendance from 15 to 20 members within its first two years. To expand her impact, Addison documented her project and developed a comprehensive guide on starting a kids' garden club, which she shared with over 100 elementary schools nationwide. Her efforts have created a valuable resource that promotes healthy eating awareness among young students on a potentially global scale.



Kyra Roldan
Give a Pup a Place to Call Home

Juliette

A growing crisis of homeless dogs motivated Kyra to raise awareness about responsible pet ownership and the urgent challenges facing animal shelters. Through her Gold Award project, she created a website and an online brochure that was shared with 15 shelters to educate the public and encourage community involvement. Kyra also built and donated three sustainable, weather-resistant dog houses to Project

Safe Pet, immediately improving the living conditions and safety of dogs while helping to alleviate overcrowding. By partnering with a local organization committed to continuing the construction of dog houses annually, Kyra ensured the sustainability of her efforts. Her project not only enhances shelter capacity and promotes pet adoption but also fosters long-term community engagement. Her online resources continue to be shared, further advancing the goals of her impactful initiative.



Briana Allen-Slaterry
Science for Kids

Troop 2644

Briana developed an after-school science curriculum for 2nd–3rd grade students at a Title I elementary school, aiming to make science more accessible through hands-on lessons using simple, low-cost materials. One standout lesson used paper airplanes to teach the scientific method, requiring only paper to ensure affordability. Her goal was to ignite a lasting

interest in science among young learners. To broaden the curriculum's reach, Briana shared it with high schools across North Carolina for wider adoption. She measured impact by surveying students before and after participation, noting significant growth in curiosity, engagement, and critical thinking. To ensure long-term sustainability, Briana established a partnership between Bruns Avenue Elementary and East Mecklenburg High School's Science Olympiad team, enabling high school students to continue delivering the program. Her innovative, accessible approach ensures that the curriculum continues to inspire young scientists well beyond her direct involvement.



Kennedi St. John
Healing Through Art

Troop 1486

Kennedi designed and led a series of art classes that promoted teen mental well-being while honoring veterans through creative expression. Incorporating stress-relieving activities like abstract art, the program encouraged students to express themselves freely and engage in open conversations about mental health.

Participants created heartfelt art pieces as gifts for veterans, fostering both emotional healing and intergenerational connection. The program helped reduce mental health stigma among youth and offered meaningful recognition to veterans. Kennedy measured success through student participation, feedback, and support from partner organizations. A major outcome was the adoption of her curriculum by the VA's Mental Health Rehabilitation Team for annual use in their Youth Summer Program. She further expanded the program's reach by sharing materials with the Cabarrus County Arts Council and the Boys and Girls Club, ensuring ongoing implementation. With additional backing from NAMI, Kennedy's project continues to impact communities, promoting healing and connection through art.



Rachel Stitt
Recycling Responsibility

Troop 478

Recycling Responsibility addressed a gap in early childhood education by introducing young learners to the issue of plastic pollution—especially microplastics—and sustainable waste management. To tackle this, Rachel wrote and illustrated a 32-page children's book titled "*Taika the Turtle and Atticus Save the Sea*," which combines an engaging narrative with practical actions

families can take to reduce their plastic footprint. She enhanced its educational value by developing teacher reading guides to support integration into science curricula. To ensure long-term impact, Rachel led reading sessions at Selwyn Elementary and Phillips Academy, resulting in both schools committing to incorporate the book into their ongoing science instruction. Through this project, Rachel gained valuable skills in adaptability, persistence, and communication, and strengthened her belief in the power of education to spark environmental stewardship in children. Her book is available on Amazon, continuing to reach and inspire new audiences.



2024 - 25 Gold Award Committee



Brittany Bartlett



Dr. Nicole Campbell



Melissa Dale



Eileen Dunlap



Michelle Eichinger



Virginia Funderburke



Kymm Kay



Contina Salyer



Joanne Shae



Deanna Sullivan



Genetta Vinson



Nikki Westlake

Thank you to our esteemed Gold Award Committee for generously dedicating your time and expertise to volunteer, guiding and mentoring these Girl Scouts on their journey to earning the prestigious Gold Award.



Congratulations to all 2024 - 25 Award Recipients!

Now that you've earned the highest award in Girl Scouting, you've changed the community, the world, and also your life! You are a role model to your fellow Girl Scouts!

girl scouts 
hornets' nest

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