

## Introduction

*"Human beings want and need appreciation for the work they do. Whether in the form of a simple thank you for a small job well done or a formal commendation for years of faithful service in a key position of an organization, such acknowledgement is a signal to the recipient that she or he is noticed and appreciated—that she or he is recognized."*

*GSUSA Adult Awards in Girl Scouting*

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Appreciation is an ongoing, everyday process for anyone, anywhere, anytime. Showing appreciation for one another is a good way to show respect, to relate to each other's strengths, and to build mutual commitment. Recognition is a tangible reminder of rewarding relationships between people and Girl Scouting.

Girl Scouting is made possible through dedicated contributions of adults who enjoy helping girls develop knowledge and skills for the future. Adults in Girl Scouting, both volunteer and employed staff, play an important role in helping girls enjoy exciting benefits of Girl Scouting. By sharing their time, knowledge and skills at all levels of the Girl Scout program, Adult Girl Scouts positively impact the Girl Scout organization and the community around them. These dedicated adult Girl Scouts deserve recognition.

Volunteers, who serve Girl Scouting, do so because of their interest and concern for girls, and to derive personal satisfaction in what they do. This satisfaction comes from many sources:

- Contribution to the community and to a girls' movement of worldwide significance
- Opportunity to acquire and use skills for self-fulfillment
- Career and educational preparation
- Knowledge of a job well done.

Most rewarding is the expression of joy on the face of a child, a sincere word or thanks, or a personalized note of appreciation. National and council recognitions are another means of acknowledging individuals, groups and service areas for outstanding service.

## How to Nominate For Council and Service Unit Awards

1. An individual or a group familiar with the service performed submits to the Service Unit Recognition Coordinator, or the Council's Recognition Committee, a written account (application, and endorsement letters if applicable) that includes the name of the candidate, the particular service being recognized, and the significance (results) of the service beyond that required for the position held.
2. Fill out a nomination form for the award being sought. Be sure all sections are filled out.
3. Complete **ALL** required letters of endorsement forms for each particular award. (The Council reserves the right to place a nominee in the appropriate award category.)
4. Submit all forms to one of the following locations

### **Council Level Awards**

Rock Island Service Center  
Attn: Council Recognition Committee  
2011 Second Avenue  
Rock Island, IL 61201

### **Service Unit Level Awards**

Service Unit Recognition Coordinator

5. The Recognition Coordinator for each Service Unit will be notified of the results so he/she can encourage attendance at the council's annual recognition ceremony.
6. Reminder- with the exception of earned awards (Numeral Pins, Leadership Development, Volunteer Achievement, etc.) recognitions are awarded based on fulfilling criteria contained on the nomination forms. Please be fair and honest in the award for which you are nominating an individual. With the exception of the Thanks Badge, there is no set progression for receiving an award. Also, keep in mind that although an individual has received an award in prior years, it is not a prerequisite for them to receive an award each and every year. Recognition is an honor bestowed by peers and should be treated as such.

## Adult Recognitions at a Glance


All recognition paperwork is due by midnight on February 1.



All award application/nomination forms are located at the council Web site and within this manual.





**All candidates must meet the following criteria:**




1. The candidate is a registered Girl Scout by February 1. To check the status of a volunteer's registration, please contact the service unit registrar.
2. The candidate is in good standing currently and at the time of service and follows all council and GSUSA policies.
3. The candidate has completed the required training for the position.

### Earned Awards

Award	Who to Consider	Award Type	Criteria	Application/ Nomination and Approval Process	Nomination Limit	Presented at
<b>Volunteer Achievement Award</b> (National Award)	Troop Leader, co-leader, assistant leader, service unit team	Pin  	The Girl Scout Volunteer Achievement Award Pin (previously Volunteer Development Pin) recognizes the first stage of volunteer service successfully completed. Comes with a chain to attach service keys. Need to have completed one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First successful volunteer completion on a board committee</li> <li>• First successful volunteer service completion on a task group/committee assignment</li> <li>• First completed year of troop leadership</li> <li>• First completed year of service area position</li> </ul>	Leader completes own application and submits it to the council for approval.	1 per eligible leader	SU meeting
<b>Volunteer Achievement Award Keys</b> (National Award)	Troop leader, co-leader, assistant leader, service unit team	White, black, copper, silver and gold keys	Criteria must be met for Volunteer Achievement Award pin. Individual requirements for each key. See form.	Leader completes own application and submits it to the council for approval.	1 per eligible leader	SU meeting

Award	Who to Consider	Award Type	Criteria	Application/ Nomination and Approval Process	Nomination Limit	Presented at
<b>Leadership Development Pin</b> (National Award)	Troop Leader, co-leader, assistant leader, service unit team	Pin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate has completed one successful year in the position of troop leader, assistant leader or group coordinator.</li> <li>The candidate has completed the appropriate basic position training, or has demonstrated position competence, or both.</li> <li>The candidate has participated in at least two meetings or events beyond the troop (Service Unit, community, council).</li> <li>Has completed training in first aid or secured an adult resource person who has completed training.</li> <li>Has completed troop camp certification or secured an adult resource person who has completed training. (This requirement may be eliminated if the troop is not involved in outdoor activities.)</li> </ul>	Leader completes own application and submits it to the council for approval.	1 per eligible leader	SU meeting
<b>Leadership Development Leaves</b> (National Award)	Troop Leader, co-leader, assistant leader, service unit team	Leaf attachments <i>Green</i> <i>Silver</i> <i>Gold</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has earned the Leadership Development pin.</li> <li>Additional CEUs in area which increased skill as Girl Scout leader:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 10 hours or 1 CEU-green leaf</li> <li>o 50 hours or 5 CEUs-silver leaf</li> <li>o 250 hours or 25 CEUs-gold leaf</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Leader completes own application and submits it to the council for approval. NOTE: 5 green leaves are replaced by one silver leaf, and 5 silver leaves are replaced by one gold leaf	None	SU meeting
<b>Membership Year Pin</b> (National Award)	All volunteers actively registered as Girl Scouts	Numeral pin, gold chain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognizes total girl and adult years in Girl Scouting.</li> <li>Eligible in 5 year increments.</li> </ul> NOTE: Girl members may also wear this pin, but must purchase the pin through the council store. Only adults may receive this pin through the adult recognition process.	SU Recognition Coordinator is responsible for completing and submitting the form to council.	None	SU meeting or individual

Award	Who to Consider	Award Type	Criteria	Application/ Nomination and Approval Process	Nomination Limit	Presented at
<b>Volunteer Years of Service Pin</b> (National Award)	All volunteers actively giving service	Pin  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognizes total <b>adult</b> years as a <b>volunteer</b> with active service in Girl Scouting.</li> <li>Eligible in 5 year increments.</li> </ul>	SU Recognition Coordinator is responsible for completing and submitting the form to council.	None	5-15 = SU meeting 20+ = Council event
<h2>Nominated Awards</h2>						
<b>Outstanding Volunteer</b> (National Award)	An <b>adult</b> volunteer actively giving outstanding service, in a position other than Leader	Pin  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Candidate has performed at a level exceeding expectations for the position.</li> <li>Does not currently hold a leader position.</li> <li>Actively recognizes, understands and practices the values of inclusive behavior.</li> </ul>	Form is completed by an individual or group and is submitted to the SU Recognition Coordinator	None	SU meeting
<b>Outstanding Leader</b> (National Award)	Volunteers and adult members actively giving outstanding service that benefits <b>at least one</b> Service Unit	Pin  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrates competence in Girl Scout Leader skills: i.e. adult-girl partnership, communication, membership development, pluralism and program delivery</li> <li>Performs at a level that exceeds the expectations of a leader.</li> <li>Actively recognizes, understands and practices the values of inclusive behavior.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Form is completed by an individual or group and is submitted to the SU Recognition Coordinator</li> <li>Requires <b>two</b> letters of endorsement</li> </ul>	None	SU meeting
<b>Appreciation Pin</b> (National Award)	Volunteers and adult members actively giving outstanding service that benefits <b>at least one</b> Service Unit	Pin  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate has provided outstanding service to a Service Unit or program delivery audience in a way that furthers the council's goals.</li> <li>The service goes beyond the expectation for the position.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Form is completed by individual or group and is submitted to the SU Recognition Coordinator</li> <li>Requires <b>two</b> letters of endorsement</li> </ul>	None	Council event

Award	Who to Consider	Award Type	Criteria	Application/ Nomination and Approval Process	Nomination Limit	Presented at
<b>Honor Pin</b> (National Award)	Volunteers and adult members actively giving outstanding service that benefits two or more Service Units	Pin  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate has provided outstanding service to two or more Service Units in a way that furthers the council's goals.</li> <li>The service goes beyond the expectation for the position.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Form is completed by individual or group and is submitted to the SU Recognition Coordinator</li> <li>Requires three letters of endorsement</li> </ul>	None	Council event
<b>Thanks Badge</b> (National Award)	Volunteers and adult members actively giving service that benefits the council or the entire Girl Scout Movement	Pin  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate has taken a leadership role that benefits the council or the entire Girl Scout Movement.</li> <li>The service is so significantly beyond the expectations that no other award is appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Form is completed by individual or group and is submitted to the SU Recognition Coordinator</li> <li>Requires four letters of endorsement</li> </ul>	None	Council event
<b>Thanks Badge II</b> (National Award)	Prior Thanks Badge recipients	Pin  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate has received the Thanks Badge.</li> <li>Since receipt of the Thanks Badge, the candidate has provided distinguished service by:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuing to perform at the same high level for an extended period of time, or</li> <li>Increasing her/his sphere of influence, or</li> <li>Using her/his skills and talent to move into another field of endeavor</li> </ul> </li> <li>The service benefits the total council or entire Girl Scout Movement.</li> <li>The service is outstanding and is significantly beyond expectations that no other award is appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Candidate should have already received the <i>Thanks Badge</i></li> <li>Form is completed by individual or group and is submitted to the SU Recognition Coordinator</li> <li>Requires four letters of endorsement</li> </ul>	None	Council event