



Adult Awards Descriptions 2011–2012

Purpose

River Valleys' formal adult awards are intended to recognize exemplary service that is above and beyond what is expected for the individual's volunteer role. Formal awards should be used to honor specific service rather than longevity. Formal awards are intended to be only one part of a comprehensive recognition plan which should also include informal recognition of volunteers.

Distribution of awards

New in 2012, all awards will be distributed at a local event established by each service unit or another venue as determined by the nominator and/or award recipient.

Nomination deadlines

Four Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) awards have a deadline of January 31 because board confirmation is needed. They include: Appreciation pin, Honor pin, Thanks Badge, Thanks Badge II.

The due date for all other award nominations is dependent **on the date of the local recognition event**. For April events the due date is March 15; for May events the due date is April 15; and for June events the due date is May 15.

Nomination applications

Applications will be available on River Valleys' website at GirlScoutsRV.org/volunteer/recognition/ as of November 1, 2011. Each application includes the specific requirements for the particular award so please review the nomination application carefully.

Appreciation Pin

The Appreciation Pin recognizes a registered adult Girl Scout's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE). This service, which has had **measurable impact** on one geographic area of service, helps reach and surpass the mission-delivery goals of the area.

Nomination deadline: January 31 [board confirmation needed]

Needed: The Appreciation Pin nomination application and two endorsement letters.

***Example candidate:** At a local event, a troop leader noticed that the diversity of the girls did not match the diversity of the community. She partnered with the service-delivery team to create and implement recruitment strategies to reach both girls and adults and developed new ways of work to support new members. As a result, Hispanic girl membership rose by 14 percent last year.*

Honor Pin

The Honor Pin recognizes a registered adult Girl Scout's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, which has had **measurable impact** on two or more geographic areas of service, allowing the council to reach and surpass its mission-delivery goals.

Nomination deadline: January 31 [board confirmation needed]

Needed: The Honor Pin nomination application and three endorsement letters.

***Example candidate:** A facilitator realized that although the council created online courses and resources on the GSLE, at volunteer meetings she heard comments indicating that many volunteers still were hesitant to use Journeys to deliver the GSLE to girls. She worked with the Volunteer Development department to create a GSLE coach role, which would support all direct-service volunteers as they implemented what they learned in the courses and put Journeys into action. This role was piloted in four service-delivery teams where, after the first year, Journey sales increased by 30 percent; girls shared the impact of 14 new take-action projects via the council's Web site; and the volunteer-satisfactions scores increased by 12 percent.*

Thanks Badge

The Thanks Badge honors a registered adult Girl Scout whose ongoing commitment, leadership and service have had an exceptional, **measurable impact** on meeting the mission-delivery goals and priorities of the **entire council or entire Girl Scout Movement**.

Nomination deadline: January 31 [board confirmation needed]

Needed: The Thanks Badge nomination application and four endorsement letters.

***Example candidate:** A volunteer saw an opportunity to use Journeys to increase membership in one of the council's target markets through the camp pathway. She helped the council partner with local companies and groups to provide in-kind, financial and volunteer support to build a Take-Action Tree House at each camp. She led a task group of girls to design and develop progressive programming, based on girl-led processes and Journey content, which culminated in take-action projects. The three-year project brought in 300 new Girl Scouts, a 5 percent overall increase in camp registrations the following year, 90 new volunteers and new partnerships with 11 local organizations.*

Thanks Badge II

The Thanks Badge II honors a previous Thanks Badge award recipient who has continued to provide exemplary service in a leadership role, resulting in a **measurable impact** that benefits the **entire Girl Scout Movement**.

Nomination deadline: January 31 [board confirmation needed]

Needed: The Thanks Badge II nomination application and four endorsement letters.

***Example candidate:** After receiving the Thanks Badge, the volunteer from the Thanks Badge example was motivated by the success of the Take-Action Tree House project and submitted to present this best practice at a GSUSA conference. She then served two years on a national task group to help educate and support all 111 councils to create long-term plans that integrate all council departments to implement the camp pathway to grow membership and deliver the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through Journey use.*

Volunteer of Excellence: **NEW GSUSA Award!**

The Volunteer of Excellence award recognizes those volunteers who have contributed outstanding service while partnering directly with girls in any pathway to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through use of the national program portfolio or who have contributed outstanding service in support of the council's mission delivery to girl and adult members.

Nomination deadline: For April events the due date is March 15; for May events the due date is April 15; and for June events the due date is May 15.

Needed: The Volunteer of Excellence nomination application and two endorsement letters.

***Example candidate:** A volunteer program advisor works over the course of the year with a teen advisory committee. Thirty current Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors plan and deliver four performance day camps, using content from the aMuse journey, targeted to girls in underserved areas in the council. As a result, those areas had a combined total of 210 new Junior girl members and 16 new adult volunteers.*

Outstanding Volunteer: **GSUSA is retiring this pin as of June 2012**

The Outstanding Volunteer pin recognizes a volunteer in a position other than (or in addition to) leader whose service benefits the entire service unit in a way that is beyond expectations for the position held. This pin is given to a volunteer only once.

Nomination deadline: For April events the due date is March 15; for May events the due date is April 15; and for June events the due date is May 15.

Needed: The Outstanding Volunteer nomination application and one endorsement letter.

***Example candidate:** An organizer/recruiter is not satisfied with her service unit's stagnant membership so she works with her service unit team members to put several recruitment initiatives in place that result in a 10 percent increase in girl members and a 15 percent increase in volunteers.*

Outstanding Leader: GSUSA is retiring this pin as of June 2012

The Outstanding Leader pin recognizes a troop leader or assistant leader whose performance in working with girls is so outstanding that it merits recognition by the service unit. The candidate must have completed required training. This pin is given to a volunteer only once.

Nomination deadline: For April events the due date is March 15; for May events the due date is April 15; and for June events the due date is May 15.

Needed: The Outstanding Leader nomination application and two endorsement letters from **troop members or their families.**

***Example candidate:** A Girl Scout leader took great care to help girls understand and practice the principles of inclusiveness partnered with a local diversity expert who provided a series of age-appropriate experiential learning workshops for girls over four troop meetings. This leader also effectively facilitated girl planning by assisting girls in organizing their ideas, coming to agreements on options and developing and implementing a plan.*

Commitment to Inclusiveness

The Commitment to Inclusiveness award is a River Valleys' award that recognizes an adult volunteer or group of volunteers who have carried out a unique and innovative project, or delivered outstanding service and leadership in the areas of inclusiveness. The nominee(s) may be an individual or a group of adult registered Girl Scouts.

Nomination deadline: For April events the due date is March 15; for May events the due date is April 15; and for June events the due date is May 15.

Needed: The Commitment to Inclusiveness nomination application and two endorsement letters. Recognition is a certificate.

***Example candidate:** A service unit team saw the importance of helping girls learn about and hopefully grow to appreciate the diversity around them. They put on a day camp to celebrate diversity and leveraged several community partners to provide hands-on activities and age-appropriate messages. Ninety percent of girl participants reported on the evaluation that they would use what they learned in their every day life and 75 percent developed an action plan for something they wanted to work on or learn more about in the area of inclusiveness.*

Extraordinary Event

The Extraordinary Event award is a River Valleys' award that recognizes service units who have implemented events that exceed standards of quality and serve as models for future innovative programming. Recognition is a certificate.

Nomination deadline: For April events the due date is March 15; for May events the due date is April 15; and for June events the due date is May 15.

Needed: The Extraordinary Event nomination application, an endorsement letter from the nominator and a letter of endorsement from a River Valleys' membership or program staff familiar with the event.

Service Unit for Excellence Level I

The Service Unit for Excellence Level I award is a River Valleys' award that recognizes a service unit's accomplishments in moving toward River Valleys' goals and objectives the previous membership year. See nomination application for specific requirements. Recognition is a certificate.

Nomination deadline: For April events the due date is March 15; for May events the due date is April 15; and for June events the due date is May 15.

Needed: The Service Unit for Excellence Level I nomination application, an endorsement letter from the service unit and an endorsement letter from the service unit's membership specialist.

Service Unit for Excellence Level II

The Service Unit for Excellence Level II award is a River Valleys' award that recognizes a service unit's accomplishments in moving toward River Valleys' goals and objectives the previous membership year. See nomination application for specific requirements. Recognition is a certificate and ribbon.

Nomination deadline: For April events the due date is March 15; for May events the due date is April 15; and for June events the due date is May 15.

Needed: The Service Unit for Excellence Level II nomination application, an endorsement letter from the service unit and an endorsement letter from the service unit's membership specialist.

Heart in Hand–SU level

The Heart in Hand–SU level pin is a River Valleys' award that recognizes outstanding service (other than that of a leader, co-leader or assistant leader) that has benefited a Girl Scout troop or service unit. This award may be given to a Girl Scout member, non-member or a community organization that has given a significant amount of time and energy to Girl Scouts. Recognition is a pin.

Nomination deadline: *For April events the due date is March 15, for May events the due date is April 15; and for June events the due date is May 15.*

Needed: The Heart in Hand–SU level nomination application and two endorsement letters.

***Example candidate:** A troop cookie manager who went above and beyond the position description by helping girls make use of the offered resources, focusing on the learning involved in the program and effectively communicating with parents. Her efforts resulted in an increase in cookie sales and parents reported satisfaction with the program.*

Heart in Hand–Council level: Distribution of Heart in Hand–Council level pin(s) and certificate are determined by the nominator

The Heart in Hand–Council level award is a River Valleys' award that recognizes outstanding service that **benefits the council or multiple service units**. This award may be given to a Girl Scout member, non-member or community organization who has given a significant amount of time and energy to Girl Scouts. Recognition is a pin and certificate.

Nominations: *Accepted from November 1 thru April 15.*

Needed: The Heart in Hand–Council level nomination application and two endorsement letters.

***Example candidate:** A corporation coordinated and implemented several career workshops for Girl Scouts participating in one of our cultural initiatives.*

Years of Service under 20 years

This is a GSUSA award that recognizes an adult member for years of active volunteer service at five-year intervals up to 20 years of service. Years of Service pins are available in five-year intervals to recognize an adult member's years of active volunteer service. These may be purchased through the River Valleys Shop and **do not** require verification or approval from the adult awards and recognition committee or River Valleys' staff.

Membership Numerals under 25 years

Another GSUSA award, this recognizes tenure in Girl Scouting. Numeral guards are available in five-year intervals to recognize total girl and adult membership years. Numeral guards under 25 years may be purchased through the River Valleys Shop and **do not** require verification or approval from the adult awards and recognition committee or River Valleys' staff

Years of Service 20 + years

This GSUSA award recognizes an adult member for years of active volunteer service at five-year intervals (adult years only). A nomination application is not needed. Annually, River Valleys will run a report from our database and all registered volunteers qualifying for 20+ years of service pins (in five-year intervals) will receive a letter with instructions on how to request their pin. Note: Records are based on the information supplied by members on their annual membership registration form or annual lifetime member update form.

Membership Numerals 25+ years

This GSUSA award recognizes tenure in Girl Scouting. Girl member and adult member years are recognized in five-year intervals. A nomination application is not needed. Annually, River Valleys will run a report from our database and all registered volunteers qualifying for 25+ year membership numerals (in five-year intervals) will receive a letter with instructions on how to request their pin. Note: Records are based on the information supplied by members on their annual membership registration form or annual lifetime member update form.

For more information about adult awards contact Wendy Walton, Volunteer Development manager, at wendy.walton@girlscoutsrv.org or call 800-845-0787.