

2023 Volunteer Awards



girl scouts 
of west central florida

Welcome to the

2023 Girl Scouts of West Central Florida

Volunteer Awards Ceremony



Congratulations to all the outstanding volunteers who we are recognizing today for their service and dedication to the Girl Scout movement, our council, and our fellow members.

We are thrilled to honor all of you who have given so much to our Girl Scouts and our council. You are the role models, mentors, and pacesetters who push the rest of us to be our best. You are the roots that both keep us grounded and allow us to grow. In you, we see the best version of ourselves. Without so many of you leading by example, we would certainly fall short in our mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

You embody the values of the movement and show our Girl Scouts that anything is possible through hard work, dedication, and imagination. Without you and your efforts, she wouldn't be able to discover, connect, take action, or experience something new and realize her potential.

You bring girls together, fostering an environment of caring and understanding, where they bond through sharing and learning about themselves and the communities in which they live. Girl Scouts is a place where girls and volunteers alike embark on a journey of discovery and are introduced to new opportunities and new friends. We make invaluable connections with others throughout that journey, who often serve as our anchors for a lifetime. For many of us, our Girl Scout friends are more like family.

Because of volunteers like you, our Girl Scouts always have someone there to guide them as their understanding of friendship and taking action evolves. I know the world is a better place because of all of you.

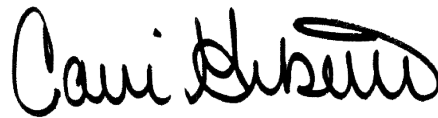
Thank you for CHOOSING to be a critical part of Girl Scouts of West Central Florida and giving our Girl Scouts an experience like no other.

Yours in Girl Scouting,



Mary Pat King

CEO
Girl Scouts of West Central Florida



Cami Gibertini

President
Girl Scouts of West Central Florida

Girl Scouts

National Awards

Volunteer of Excellence Award



The Volunteer of Excellence Award recognizes volunteers who have contributed outstanding service while partnering directly with girls in any pathway to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through the use of the National Program Portfolio or service in support of Girl Scouts of West Central Florida's mission delivery to girl and adult members beyond the expectations of the position. This is awarded at the Service Unit level.

Baha'Eddin Abu Khaled, 673 Sunset Scouts

Taryn Anderson, 625 Tierra Del Sol

Dana Antis, 654 Whispering Pines

Colleen Astone, 641 Beautiful Waters

Abby Baltra, 613 Beautiful Butterflies

Mary Kate Bee, 601 Coacoochee

Alexis Beital, 626 West Wind

Kristina Berger, 640 Crystal Waters

Alexis Bever, 603 Smiling Sisters

Jennifer Bird, 640 Crystal Waters

Jeffrey Bohm, 647 Wai Lani

Jennifer Boria, 640 Crystal Waters

Jenny Bouchie, 654 Whispering Pines

Danielle Brahm, 640 Crystal Waters

Thrica Brown, 628 Cypress Belles

Lauren Brown, 640 Crystal Waters

Jessica Burbo, 613 Beautiful Butterflies

Jasmine Burgos, 647 Wai Lani

Ines Burkhardt, 676 Fossil Valley

Candice Calvo, 639 Land of the Silver Moon

Holly Carlson, 640 Crystal Waters

Kelli Clarke, 654 Whispering Pines

Jeanine Cohen, 621 Sand Eagles

Deanna Creamer, 622 Land O Lakes

Kelly Custer, 635 Spring Mermaids

Sean Daniel-Ennis, 622 Land O Lakes

Shalonda Davis, 628 Cypress Belles

Melissa Davis, 632 Joining Rivers

Jennifer Dean, 676 Fossil Valley

Jessica Dees, 654 Whispering Pines

Elisa DeGregorio, 601 Coacoochee

Rahkita Delbaugh, 676 Fossil Valley

Alexandra Diaz, 603 Smiling Sisters

Jack Dineen, 642 Gulf Sands

Donna Donati-Waddell, 647 Wai Lani

Amanda Fidler, 622 Land O Lakes

Lori Fiedler, 654 Whispering Pines

Ruthie Figgins, 676 Fossil Valley

Jessica Fisher, 647 Wai Lani

Mary Alice Floyd-Merlin, 607 Sunny Palms

Lisa Franz, 636 Silver Forest

Corey Franzen, 654 Whispering Pines

Debbie Galbraith, 615 Magical Dreamers

Christi Graber, 603 Smiling Sisters

Jill Grantland, 635 Spring Mermaids

Amy Higgins, 626 West Wind

Girl Scouts

National Awards

Volunteer of Excellence Award

Nadine Hill, 606 Strawberry
Sharon Hillestad, 642 Gulf Sands
Felicia Hills, 654 Whispering Pines
Dawn Horton, 632 Joining Rivers
Jennifer Houston, 647 Wai Lani
Brenda Hover, 682 Split Pines
Stefanie Hughes, 615 Magical Dreamers
Kealy Hunter, 626 West Wind
Christine Hysler, 632 Joining Rivers
Heather Irvan, 603 Smiling Sisters
Amy Jaworski, 616 Lakeland Royal Swans
Cecilia Jirikowic, 647 Wai Lani
Nicole Johnson, 654 Whispering Pines
Alissa Kehs, 647 Wai Lani
Lia Kluis, 647 Wai Lani
Gina Laiso, 622 Land O Lakes
Shaina Lestoric, 654 Whispering Pines
Lauren Levy, 607 Sunny Palms
Brittany Lockhart, 635 Spring Mermaids
Lowelle Lomel, 607 Sunny Palms
Carmen Longnecker, 601 Coacoochee
Adisha Lovette, 615 Magical Dreamers
Samantha Lyons, 608 Toppercrest
Crystal Majka, 606 Strawberry
Tara McDoniel, 673 Sunset Scouts
Nicole McGinnis, 612 Rising Daisies
Valerie McHugh, 654 Whispering Pines
William Miller, 647 Wai Lani
Mandy Mitchell, 601 Coacoochee

Dana Mlynarski, 654 Whispering Pines
Kimber Mullins, 655 Trailblazers
Jessica Nudo, 622 Land O Lakes
Caryn Ollia, 603 Smiling Sisters
Gordon O'Meara, 642 Gulf Sands
Tina Parapon, 654 Whispering Pines
Jeremy Pettit, 622 Land O Lakes
Kaitlin Powell, 601 Coacoochee
Angela Prater, 603 Smiling Sisters
Melinda Radlein, 628 Cypress Belles
Brittany Ray, 640 Crystal Waters
Christy Rieben, 647 Wai Lani
Misty Rogers, 603 Smiling Sisters
Jenny Ellen Russell, 607 Sunny Palms
Geffrey Rutgers, 622 Land O Lakes
Haleema Salar, 673 Sunset Scouts
Alice Santana, 616 Lakeland Royal Swans
Amber Schauman, 622 Land O Lakes
Hollie Seaman, 616 Lakeland Royal Swans
Holmes Seaman, 676 Fossil Valley
Tiffany Shaner, 647 Wai Lani
Ann Sherman, 676 Fossil Valley
Elizabeth Shutrump, 654 Whispering Pines
Harmonie Smith, 616 Lakeland Royal Swans
Rebecca Smyers, 628 Cypress Belles
Malissa Spencer, 640 Crystal Waters
Sharon Stubbs, 651 PALS
Tina Szczech, 606 Strawberry
Lindsay Tait, 603 Smiling Sisters

Girl Scouts

National Awards

Volunteer of Excellence Award

Nancy Tartaglia, 640 Crystal Waters

Erica Taylor, 676 Fossil Valley

Sarah Titak, 616 Lakeland Royal Swans

Heather Torres, 676 Fossil Valley

Kristy Parlett Udagawa, 625 Tierra Del Sol

Shannie Urbina, 676 Fossil Valley

Amber Van Denzen Suarez,
616 Lakeland Royal Swans

Ann VanLandschoot, 676 Fossil Valley

Elisa Vasher, 676 Fossil Valley

Jennifer Velasquez, 640 Crystal Waters

Lindsey Vick, 631 Angel Echo

Kristen Vinzant, 616 Lakeland Royal Swans

Angela Votaw, 641 Beautiful Waters

Saudia Wadud, 603 Smiling Sisters

Sharon Waits, 682 Split Pines

Nicole Walker, 616 Lakeland Royal Swans

Amiee Walker, 636 Silver Forest

Julia Ward, 647 Wai Lani

William Ward, 647 Wai Lani

Michele Waring, 635 Spring Mermaids

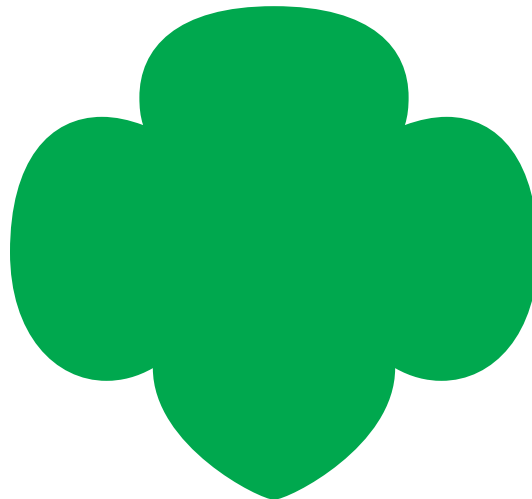
Markie Whitt, 613 Beautiful Butterflies

Carolyn Woodger, 616 Lakeland Royal Swans

Christine Zawacki, 619 Lil Manatee

Ameena Zia, 673 Sunset Scouts

Erin Zolkiwsky, 601 Coacoochee



Girl Scouts

National Awards

Appreciation Pin



The Appreciation Pin is awarded to registered adult members who have delivered outstanding service to at least one service unit, geographic area, or program delivery audience, and have received two nominations outlining that outstanding service.

Ashley Berman, SU673–Sunset Scouts

Amber Bridges, SU653–Hoxie

Kelly Burchell, SU613–Beautiful Butterflies

Mirina Clink, SU654–Whispering Pines

Tim Clough, SU676–Fossil Valley

Claire Cohn, SU647–Wai Lani

Amie Cooper, SU616–Lakeland Royal Swans

Marjorie Crosbie, SU608–Toppercrest

Patricia Dalyander, SU653–Hoxie

Marlow Gilbert, SU635–Spring Mermaids

Cassandra Glubzinski, SU676–Fossil Valley

Tanya Grable, SU608–Toppercrest

Laila Gulley, SU628–Cypress Belles

Felicita Heredia, SU613–Beautiful Butterflies

Natalie Hernandez, SU601–Coacoochee

Stacie Jones, SU632–Joining Rivers

Stephany Key, SU616–Lakeland Royal Swans

Jamie Kerr, SU647–Wai Lani

Ameena Khan, SU673–Sunset Scouts

Dawn Klee, SU654–Whispering Pines

Toni Knowles, SU632–Joining Rivers

Sandy Kulp, SU616–Lakeland Royal Swans

Christine Leigh, SU647–Wai Lani

Suzanne McFarland, SU622–Land O Lakes

Autumn Neal, SU631–Angel Echo

Jo Dee Nicosia, SU619–Lil Manatee

Leah Nishwitz, SU632–Joining Rivers

Jennifer Perez, SU636–Silver Forest

Julie Pusateri, SU647–Wai Lani

Stacey Rodriguez, SU618–Orange Blossoms

Melissa Sharma, SU676–Fossil Valley

Janelle Sharp, SU631–Angel Echo

Kelly Skowronski, SU622–Land O Lakes

Melissa Soligny, SU616–Lakeland Royal Swans

Sarah Tombaugh, SU607–Sunny Palms

Kelly Verra, SU607–Sunny Palms

Danielle Webb, SU631–Angel Echo

Irene Wheaton, SU653–Hoxie

Girl Scouts

National Awards

Honor Pin



The Honor Pin is awarded to registered members who have delivered outstanding service to two or more service units, geographic areas, or program delivery audiences, and have received three nominations that clearly outline that outstanding service.



Sheri Bohm serves as a troop leader for an extremely active, multi-level troop within the Wai Lani Service Unit. She not only creates interactive and fun activities for her troop, but also invites other troops within and beyond the service unit to participate. She has facilitated multiple virtual journeys, providing girls from different troops with the opportunity to learn and interact with one another. She has also helped many girls reach their Summit Award.

For the past two years she and her husband have organized a community chalking event for Veteran's Day—allowing girls from across multiple service units to learn the significance of this day. She and her husband have completed numerous certifications that allow the service unit to offer activities that might not otherwise be available. Sheri also participates on multiple committees, serves as an alternate delegate for the service unit and assists with leadership training.



Lisa Hennick has been a troop leader and Service Unit Volunteer for Joining Rivers Service Unit for the past seven years. This year, Lisa identified a need for archery programming in Marion County and took the initiative to earn her certification. She now serves all troops within Joining Rivers and Land of the Silver Moon, as an Archery Facilitator. Lisa has led archery programming for individual troops, encampments and Marion County's Adult Enrichment Weekend Sister's Retreat. Whether it is a girl or an adult, Lisa dedicates time and

attention to everyone, building their confidence to try new things. Without her, the girls would not have the same access to an archery program in Marion County.



Katy Wilson, through her eight years of leadership, has faced several instances of adversity but has remained a constant example of strength, support and kindness to those around her. When she moved from the Valrico area, it could have meant the end for her troop, as they would be without a leader. Instead, Katy continued to lead the troop, along with another troop in Crystal Waters Service Unit. She ensures girls are empowered to set goals and to witness how their hard work is rewarded with unforgettable experiences and long-lasting

relationships. In addition, she has assisted with various area events including World Thinking Day, roller skating and a Metropolitan Ministries of Tampa Bay service project.

Girl Scouts National Awards

Honor Pin



Heather Wolfertz, a committed and caring Lifetime Member and volunteer, serves as the Accounting Coordinator, Fall Product Chair, Cookie Chair, Encampment Director and Area Delegate for Circle of Springs Service Unit. In addition, Heather provided the training design and served as the lead facilitator for two council events—Netiquette, Cybersecurity I, II, III, and Cadette Cyber Safety; and aMAZE Journey, Finding Common Ground. During Girl Scout cookie season, Heather reached out to the Service Unit Cookie Chairs in the surrounding areas to offer her assistance and deliver their product to them. This year alone, she helped 15 Troops in Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Pinellas counties.



Girl Scouts

National Awards

Thanks Badge I



Thanks Badge I is awarded to registered members who have delivered outstanding service to the entire council or Girl Scout movement. Thanks Badge recipients have received at least three nominations that clearly outline their extraordinary service.



Shannon Boyer, a true go-getter and fierce advocate for girls, has created a contagious excitement for Girl Scouts wherever she goes. As the Service Unit Manager for Joining Rivers, she is a great listener, thoughtful leader, and makes sure that everyone feels heard and supported. Shannon was a huge help in the planning and execution of Sisters Retreat, providing a space for volunteers from across the council to learn new skills and make new friends. In her role as a Certified Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor, Shannon facilitates training to other volunteers and even planned a mental health event for girls. Most recently Shannon was a National Delegate who represented Girl Scouts of West Central Florida at the 56th National Council Session in July. Shannon embodies what it means to be a Girl Scout and is a great role model for all.



Shelby Hanna is a dedicated volunteer who is always willing to share her time, knowledge and experience with others. As a standout former Encampment Director, she was recommended by a camp ranger to help design the new encampment director training this past year. Shelby's fantastic communication, organizational skills and expertise make her a dream to work with. In addition to serving as the current Service Unit Manager for Coacoochee Service Unit, Shelby is also a Basic Outdoor Leadership Trainer for council. In this role, Shelby provides volunteers all across Girl Scouts of West Central Florida with the information and skills they need to take their girls camping and to foster their love of the outdoors. Shelby has also answered the call to action on multiple occasions including the need for facilitators at Encampment of Dreams, helping in the kitchen at summer camp and stuffing binders at the Leadership Center. Shelby is an exemplary volunteer who radiates passion, kindness and generosity.



Barbara Mellen-Wilson is a Lifetime Member who, as an adult, decided to give back to the organization that meant so much to her as a child. Once a Girl Scout, always a Girl Scout. Most recently, Barbara served her first year as the Wai Lani Service Unit Cookie Manager, successfully navigating a difficult cookie season while keeping a positive attitude. She made sure to keep everyone updated with changes and information regarding the cookie program, paying special attention to the new troops to make sure they had the help they needed for a successful first year. Barbara also kept in communication with council product program staff, keeping them informed of challenges that the volunteers and girls were experiencing. Barbara has also been the Fall Product Manager for several years and used her experience this year to help train other product managers and to serve as the co-chair of the Volunteer Entrepreneur Council Team.

Girl Scouts

National Awards

Thanks Badge II



Thanks Badge II is awarded to registered members who have already earned the Thanks Badge, have continual high performance and have used their skill or sphere of influence to benefit the entire council in another endeavor. Thanks Badge II recipients have received at least three nominations that clearly outline their extraordinary service.



Eddie Curren has served as Hoxie's Service Unit Manager for the past five years, supporting 70 troops. She's been an engaged and welcoming troop leader for 13 years and a volunteer for 14 years. She recently expanded her volunteer efforts, adding Area D Chair for Governance covering Hoxie, Split Pines and Boca Ciega. She continues to mentor and assist the Boca Ciega Service Unit. This past year, Eddie supported the Beautiful Butterflies Service Unit encampment, so their adults and girls had the choice to take a step back from leading. This past fall, she led the Hoxie Service Unit effort in collecting needed items for Hurricane Ian victims in Southwest Florida. Hoxie Girls Scouts, leaders, volunteers and all surrounding Service Units have benefited from Eddie's dedication and leadership. Through the donated Hurricane Ian items, Eddie's caring and generous nature benefitted the community.



Lynn Sansspree is a Girl Scout through and through, with more than 35 years of scouting! She currently serves as a troop leader, Food Manager, and event volunteer for the Joining Rivers Service Unit. She has led numerous troops throughout the years, inspiring a new generation of troop leaders who she once led. She helped coordinate numerous activities including an encampment, Marion County Drive-In, "The Big Cheese," and others. For several years, she has also organized the annual School of Wizardry event at which her "Honey Dukes" and chocolate covered frogs and wands are famous! She has added many skills to her Girl Scout resume, most recently becoming a Food Manager to fill an important gap at Camp Wildwood. She takes her role of providing safe and delicious food seriously; assuring those with food allergies and aversions can enjoy their meals. Lynn exemplifies what it means to be a Girl Scout!

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida Awards

Trefoil Award in Memory of Linda Scott



The **Trefoil Award in Memory of Linda Scott** is awarded in honor and memory of Linda Scott, a long time staff member of Girl Scouts of West Central Florida. Reflecting her love of the girls, volunteers, and council staff, three nominations outlining the nominee's outstanding service with these three groups are required to be considered for the award. All recipients must also be registered members who have provided outstanding service to Girl Scouting.



Cindy Anderson, a pinnacle member of Sunny Palms Service Unit, uses her influence and leadership to grow and connect Girl Scouts and leaders through her powerful network. If girls want to join Girl Scouts but a leader is not available, she will often step up and form a new troop to guarantee the girls can still participate. Cindy leads three separate troops and has mentored additional adults to serve as co-leaders. Additionally, she acts as a camp mentor to leaders. Each year she invites troops to attend camping trips at which she and her girls help to build their comfort level regarding the outdoors. Cindy also serves as Sunny Palm's Camp Scholarship Chair, which gives five girls \$200 each to put towards summer camp. Cindy is highly regarded for her advice. She not only models what she says, but she embodies what it means to be a Girl Scout.



Marie Anderson serves not only as a troop leader, but also as the Cookie and Fall Product Program Manager for the Silver Forest Service Unit. As a troop leader, she inspires the girls to get the most out of their Girl Scout experience while also serving their community through take action projects. Marie also mentors new troops, modeling what it means to be a sister to every Girl Scout. She teaches new troop leaders as well as Girl Scouts on how to run a successful cookie business, providing creative strategies to reach new customers, and makes herself available to help others troubleshoot challenges along the way. When a need was identified for another service unit's Product Program Manager, Marie stepped up to the challenge. Her encouragement allows others to step outside of their comfort zones and to reach their highest potential. She exemplifies this award by continuously going above and beyond and inspiring others around her to do the same.



Karen Bachmann, despite her daughter graduating eight years ago, continues to serve Girl Scouts of West Central Florida and the Toppercrest Service Unit as Service Unit Manager, Accounting Coordinator, Recruiter, Adult Award Coordinator, BOLT Council Trainer and Encampment Director. Within these roles, Karen serves as a mentor to both girls and adults, especially around outdoor skills. Each year, she organizes a fire-building competition for Toppercrest's older girl encampment. During the competition, she is on the sidelines to cheer them on. As a Council Trainer for Basic Outdoor Leadership Training, Karen is able to bring this same wisdom and expertise to adults. Through her mentorship, girls and adults build confidence and positive experiences in the outdoors and around the campfire, one of Girl Scouts' oldest traditions.

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida Awards

Trefoil Award in Memory of Linda Scott



Jennifer Lawrence-Jones has served as Service Unit Manager for the Land O' Lakes Service Unit over the past seven years, in addition to being a troop leader and council facilitator for ceramics, kiln and pottery wheel training. Supplies for these activities can be expensive and somewhat inaccessible. Jennifer ensures that troops have easy access to ceramics and pottery activities through Service Unit events and individually with troops, often using her personal funds and operating a kiln out of her home. At the troop level, Jennifer serves as a role model to the girls and adults around her. She goes beyond any expectation to ensure all girls, even girls outside her troop, can participate in Girl Scout activities. She has even inspired girls in her troop of Seniors to become volunteers after they graduate.



Bobbie Soto is a troop leader and Service Unit Recruiter with the Magical Dreamers Service Unit. Under her direction and support, four troops have been started in the Haines City/Davenport area and she recently recruited two additional volunteers to start two more troops. Ensuring new leaders have a strong support system in their role, Bobbie assists them in planning and executing meetings and continuously ensures that they have what they need. Bobbie goes out of her way to try to bring Girl Scouts to every girl by setting up tables to recruit girls wherever she can. She lives the Girl Scout mission and exemplifies this to the girls. The entire service unit loves and admires Bobbie. More importantly, they know they can count on her.



Amy Thien (Posthumous) was a dedicated Girl Scout for many years in the Fossil Valley Service Unit, as well as an administrator for a military spouse Facebook Group in the Lithia area. Amy served as a troop leader and troop Fall Product and Cookie Program Manager for several years. Through her extremely well-organized leadership, the Girl Scouts in her troop earned numerous badges, participated in and led community service projects, explored learning experiences on community field trips, and developed valuable leadership and life skills. Amy remained active with Girl Scouts throughout her illness, planning for future events and helping the new troop cookie manager. Amy continued to serve as Fossil Valley's communication and PR Coordinator making sure everyone knew what the Girl Scouts were up to and how they were serving their community. Amy was a blessing to Fossil Valley and Girl Scouts of West Central Florida. She made the world a better place. Amy passed away in March of this year.

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida Awards

Heart of Gold Award



The Heart of Gold Award is Girl Scouts of West Central Florida's council award to honor registered members who perform outstanding service above and beyond expectations both in Girl Scouting and for another organization. The award requires at least two nominations, with at least one being about their outstanding service to Girl Scouting and at least one being about their work for another organization.



Meghan Abbott, whether it is running the Fall Product fundraiser, assisting with encampment, or seeking leadership opportunities for girls within Pinellas County, is a keystone within her troop and community. Despite being new within the service unit, she stepped up to take over the role of Fall Product Manager for Hoxie Service Unit. Meghan has shined in this role with her attention to detail, positive attitude and commitment to keeping volunteers informed. Her reach extends far beyond her troop as she volunteers to support Title 1 libraries and schools. Additionally, Meghan is an advocate for women in STEM through her participation in the Pinellas County Schools Women in STEM Breakfast, at which she shared her challenges as a female in the field of science and technology. She also oversees a mentor program with Florida Fish and Wildlife, which pairs women with senior scientists. Through Girl Scouts and community engagement, Meghan is a tremendous asset who truly embodies the desire to make this world a better place.



Yesenia DeJesus serves as a council trainer, troop leader, and the Cypress Belles Service Unit Encampment Director. This year, with assistance from the girls in her troop, Yesenia put on a fun, engaging and girl-led Service Unit Encampment at Camp Wildwood. The theme was a Chinese Lantern Festival. Yesenia is certified to instruct our council's volunteers in adult training for outdoor program activities. In addition to giving her valuable time to Girl Scouts of West Central Florida, Yesenia volunteers with the Cleft Lip and Palate Foundation. Several times a year, Yesenia and this group travel—often internationally—to provide medical care to underserved people and communities. Other groups that receive the benefit of Yesenia's time are Talbot House, Missionary Foundation, Lighthouse Ministries and Girl Scout Council of the Southern Appalachians.



Deanna Kaufman serves Girl Scouts of West Central Florida as a Fall Product Manager and troop leader in the Crystal Waters Service Unit. When Old Harbor Bay Service Unit merged with Crystal Waters, Deanna jumped into the role of Fall Product Manager and quickly became a valued asset to the team. Due to her attention to detail and organization, new troops were easily able to navigate their first year of the fall product program. In addition to her service to Girl Scouts, Deanna also volunteers for her daughter's swim team. She took the time to go through extensive training to become a Florida Swim Committee Official through USA Swimming. When not with her own troop, assisting others with the Fall Product Program or helping at recruitment nights, Deanna graciously dedicates any additional free time to running swim meets.

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida Awards

Heart of Gold Award



Christine Kirkstad serves as a troop leader as well as the Family Partnership Champion for the Spring Mermaids Service Unit. Christine was asked to step up as a troop leader after excelling as the troop Product Sales Manager and leading multiple meetings when other troop leaders had to take a step back. Her leadership has allowed the troop to double in number, welcoming many more girls to Girl Scouts. Her kind and non-judgmental demeanor has created a safe space for girls to feel supported. As the Family Partnership Champion, she hosted a taco dinner night that was a great success. In addition to Girl Scouts, Christine serves as a volunteer and leader for a local Cub Scout Pack. Serving as their “Popcorn Kernel,” she supported their popcorn sales by chaperoning, securing booth locations, and hosting kick offs. She brings this same “can do” attitude to help the Cub Scouts achieve its fundraising goals.



Christine (Chris) Mason signed up as a troop volunteer alongside her daughter when her granddaughter became a Girl Scout in 2011, and never looked back. Over the years, Chris has assisted the troop and Rainbow Service Unit in countless ways, including volunteering at events, ceremonies, and cookie booths; preparing food and crafts before meetings; shopping for supplies; cleaning and organizing the Camp Wai Lani sewing room and teaching the girls to sew; and offering them unconditional love and encouragement. Chris is also an active member of her church as well as their “Stitches” sewing club. She uses her sewing and crafting skills to help others by making pillowcases for pediatric cancer patients; hats, shoes, and flannel hearts for NICU babies; port pillows and knitted shawls for chemo patients; purses and wallets for homeless teens; and so much more. Chris displays a love for her community and works tirelessly to help others in need.



Valerie McFarland is an enthusiastic and beloved troop leader for her daughter’s Brownie troop who leads with inclusion and creates a sense of community wherever she goes. Using her strong organizational skills, she plans amazing events and fun crafts for the girls, teaches them about their community and how to give back, and works hard to ensure her girls have access to everything possible within Girl Scouts. Valerie also volunteers extensively within the ESE community, advocating and assisting families in understanding available resources and how to access them. In March, she organized a community field day event for neuro-divergent and neuro-typical children and their families, creating opportunities for all children to participate together and experience true inclusivity. Valerie brought these two passions together by creating opportunities for Girl Scouts to get involved. Girls created autism awareness signs with messages of inclusion and learned about how to create space for others.

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida Awards

Heart of Gold Award



Mandy Blum deserves recognition for her remarkable volunteer contributions within and beyond Girl Scouts. With over 3 years of dedicated service, she effectively manages fall product and cookie sales for her daughter's troop. Mandy's role includes guiding individual girls and the troop toward their goals, handling ordering, distribution, and payments. Her leadership extends to co-leading the troop, ensuring an authentic Girl Scout experience. Her efforts have led to successful sales and an active troop. Mandy's commitment also extends to her temple's youth programs, community acts of kindness, and volunteering with her daughter's school FBLA chapter. Her dedication to empowering girls and her wider community involvement make her a truly commendable volunteer.



Girl Scouts of West Central Florida Awards

Heart of Gold Award



Kelly Muir serves as a dedicated volunteer to Girl Scouts of West Central Florida in her role as a Council Archery Trainer and to the Spring Mermaids Service Unit as Service Unit Manager. At the end of the 2021 membership year, Kelly was the only remaining active Archery Trainer for Girl Scouts of West Central Florida. Since then, she has single-handedly upheld archery training for volunteers and has trained additional adults to serve as council trainers for the 2024 membership year. Archery training would not have been available to volunteers this past year if it were not for Kelly. In addition to her service to Girl Scouts, Kelly also serves as president of FW Springstead High School's band booster organization. As Band Booster President, Kelly gives the same level of attention and dedication to ensure parents are involved, and paperwork and administrative tasks are completed. Due to her organization and leadership, the band booster organization is running efficiently.



Deborah Nelson proudly serves as a troop leader. In her more than 18 years of service to the Wai Lani Service Unit, she led two troops—one for each of her daughters—and she continues leading them despite both daughters having graduated from high school. Deborah empowers girls to make their Girl Scouting experience what they want it to be by modeling what it means to be “girl led.” In addition, Deborah serves as a founding member of Elisa's Greatest Wishes, a local non-profit named in memory of her sister-in-law. The organization supports several community initiatives including the Wai Lani Service Unit by providing scholarships for graduating Girl Scouts, offering financial support to make activities affordable to all, and leading beautification projects at Camp Wai Lani. Elisa's Greatest Wishes' annual 5k/1-mile fun run is one of the events at which many Girl Scouts participate and volunteer. Deborah is also an active volunteer with the Suncoast Animal League and the Make-A-Wish-Foundation.



Jessica O'Brien, from her role as a Service Unit Manager to Encampment Director to PTA volunteer, has unmatched dedication. Jessica took on the challenging responsibility of being a Service Unit Manager. Despite facing limited resources, she organizes captivating events that demonstrate her commitment to empowering girls. Jessica's involvement extends to her school, at which she manages four extracurricular clubs and actively participates in the Parent-Teacher Association. Her ability to listen to the needs and desires of students and girls in the service unit sets her apart. Furthermore, her compassion extends beyond borders, as she welcomes exchange students into her home and introduces them to American culture and supports their personal growth. Jessica's leadership, determination and unwavering dedication have positively impacted countless individuals.

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida Awards

Heart of Gold Award



Peter Parapon, an Air Force Veteran and dad of three Girl Scouts, dedicates his time to causes close to his heart. He supports his daughters' troops as a Troop Helper, assisting with various tasks such as cookie pick-up, managing cookie booths, and providing support to his wife, who serves as a troop leader and Troop Helper. Peter also volunteers with Wreaths Across America, promoting their mission and soliciting wreath donations. He visits Bay Pines National Cemetery in December to lay wreaths and on Memorial Day to place American flags. For several years, Peter has also promoted the Wreaths Across America mission to multiple Girl Scout troops within the Whispering Pines Service Unit, teaching them the importance of remembering and honoring fallen veterans. Under his leadership, girls have been able to participate in wreath-laying ceremonies and Peter ensures their efforts are recognized by providing them with patches from Wreaths Across America.



Carol Phillips has been a member of Girl Scouts for more than 45 years, and though her girls have graduated, she continues to pour her love, time and attention into the Girl Scout movement. Carol has been in the role of Cookie Manager for Rising Daisies Service Unit since before it merged with the Rising Star Service Unit, and she is considered a “cookie pro” within her community. Aside from managing the cookie program for her service unit, Carol also takes the time to mentor new troops on rewards, how many cookies to order and cookie booth selling tips. Outside of Girl Scouts, Carol also volunteers with Idlewild Baptist Church’s Foster Care and Hope Restored Ministry, specifically by collecting donations that help with Christmas gift projects and toiletry bags for sex trafficking victims.



Elizabeth Pittman stepped up to serve as co-leader for Troop 33011 in 2018 when the troop’s previous co-leader had to step down. Since then, she has taken on the role in full stride, even with her own daughter’s participation decreasing. This has not stopped Elizabeth from attending meetings, activities and trips to support the rest of the troop. She has led her troop through their Bronze Award and has led other girls through their Silver Award. Furthermore, Elizabeth dedicates the same exemplary service to her son’s Boy Scout troop as their Medical Officer. This includes organizing and maintaining medical paperwork for more than 45 Boy Scouts. No matter the organization, everything Elizabeth does is with passion, energy and positivity.



Barbara “Joyce” Pomnitz, a caring volunteer with more than 45 years of Girl Scout service, serves as the Rising Daisies Service Unit Cookie Manager and has held this role for more than 20 years. Joyce ensures that all troop leaders in her service unit are sufficiently knowledgeable and able to navigate the cookie product website. Her years of experience have especially benefited new Rising Daisies troop leaders as there is no question that Joyce can’t answer. If she doesn’t know the answer, she knows where to find it. Her support is immeasurable. In addition to her service to Girl Scouts, Joyce is also very active with her church, Idlewild Baptist. At Idlewild Baptist, Joyce works with human trafficking victims, providing these women with personal hygiene items and getting them to safe houses. Her church also counts on her to assist with a group that supports children in foster care.

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida Awards

Heart of Gold Award



Belinda Robinson is a troop co-leader and serves as the Accounting Coordinator for the Split Pines Service Unit. In this role, she not only balances and prepares all financial statements for the service unit, but she also conducts banking training for leaders. Additionally, Belinda facilitates new troop training and provides assistance with conflict resolution. Aside from Girl Scout activities, Belinda also serves with the Columbiettes, a Catholic women's organization and an affiliate of the Knights of Columbus. As their newly appointed president, Belinda has led several successful fundraisers and donation drives to help serve the community. Her connections have also allowed troops to meet at Lopez Hall. Belinda has also led the Split Pines Service Unit to participate in Veteran's Day parades, and food and toiletry drives for the underprivileged in the community.



Sandy Rumbaugh exceptional leadership as the leader of Troop 61232 has provided her girls with an enriching Girl Scout experience. She skillfully managed fall product sales by teaching the girls goal setting, sales techniques and how to use Clover. Sandra has also ensured her troop acquired diverse skills, including sewing, horse care and CPR/FA. Outside of Girl Scouts, Sandra volunteers with the AWANA program, guiding third through fifth graders through games, Bible verse memorization. Additionally, she selflessly serves as a camp nurse at Word of Life Camp and Summers Best Camp. Sandra's commitment to providing genuine experiences, both within and outside of Girl Scouts, exemplifies her dedication to her community.



Nicole Williger stepped up to be a co-leader for her daughter's Daisy troop in 2018 after their previous co-leader could not continue. This allowed the troop to continue and grow into a multi-level troop, now 21 girls strong. She has taken the lead in planning many ways for their troop to give back to the Oldsmar community, including a variety of projects for their local nursing home and first responders. She has also used her connections to the local food pantry to arrange a tour and food drive for her troop. Aside from Girl Scouts, Nicole is involved with the PTA board at Oldsmar Elementary, heading up the fundraising programs to make sure teachers are set up for a successful school year. When Nicole is made aware of someone's struggles, this motivates her to put plans into action to help them.



Kelly Williams-Puccio has been a dedicated Girl Scout leader for more than two decades and still leads a troop although her daughter has graduated. Kelly supports her service unit by leveraging her employee match program to contribute towards Lakeland Royal Swans Service Unit Family Partnership goals. Her service unit's goals often would not have been met without her donations. Kelly is also involved in the community through volunteering with Publix Serves. She has led the oversight and promotion of volunteer projects with organizations such as Habitat of Humanity, Florida Baptist Childrens Home, Salvation Army and Parker Street Ministries, just to name a few.

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida Awards

Years of Service Pins



Years of Service Pins recognize a registered adult member for years of active volunteer service at 5-year intervals up to 40 years. After 40 years, pins are available at 10-year intervals. Years of Service Pins are presented by the service unit for 5 years of service and by Girl Scouts of West Central Florida for 10 years of service and beyond.

5 Years of Service

Meghan Abbott, SU682–Split Pines
John Allar, SU635–Spring Mermaids
June Allar, SU635–Spring Mermaids
Kelley Allen, SU612–Rising Daisies
Dana Antis, SU654–Whispering Pines
Jeanine Arthur, SU618–Orange Blossoms
Mary Kate Bee, SU601–Coacoochee
Kate Beeken, SU607–Sunny Palms
David Blum, SU654–Whispering Pines
Mandlyn Blum, SU654–Whispering Pines
Holly Boyer, SU676–Fossil Valley
Michelle Braswell, SU612–Rising Daisies
Heather Brown, SU612–Rising Daisies
Sarah Fay Brown, SU615–Magical Dreamers
Jessica Brunicke, SU635–Spring Mermaids
Lisa Campbell, SU601–Coacoochee
Tenesia Campbell, SU615–Magical Dreamers
Lisa Canamero, SU635–Spring Mermaids
Lisa Carillo, SU682–Split Pines
Robin Chalhoue, SU654–Whispering Pines
Mariah Cook, SU612–Rising Daisies
Maria Coyt, SU615–Magical Dreamers

Kelly Custer, SU635–Spring Mermaids
Chelsea Devin, SU612–Rising Daisies
Donna Donati-Waddell, SU647–Wai Lani
Erin Dragneff, SU635–Spring Mermaids
Ellen Frinks, SU612–Rising Daisies
Cathy Gallagher-Sangalang,
SU635–Spring Mermaids
Jodi Gillispie, SU682–Split Pines
Lydia Gingrich, SU601–Coacoochee
Ryan Gingrich, SU601–Coacoochee
Angela Gorgei, SU612–Rising Daisies
Tanisha Herring, SU618–Orange Blossoms
Jeanette Hordge-Smith, SU612–Rising Daisies
Christine Hysler, SU632–Joining Rivers
Julie Johnston, SU607–Sunny Palms
Sarah Jones, SU601–Coacoochee
Staci Jones, SU632–Joining Rivers
Deanna Kaufman, SU640–Crystal Waters
Kimberly Kelly-Thompson, SU608–Toppercrest
Jamie Kerr, SU647–Wai Lani
Tara Khan, SU607–Sunny Palms
Stephanie Klein, SU608–Toppercrest
Stacey Lane, SU635–Spring Mermaids

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida Awards

Years of Service Pins

Christine Leigh, SU647–Wai Lani
Shana Lestoric, SU654–Whispering Pines
Carmen Longnecker, SU601–Coacoochee
Victoria MacIntrye, SU632–Joining Rivers
Cami McDaniel, SU612–Rising Daisies
Michelle Meyer, SU615–Magical Dreamers
Sarah Miller, SU676–Fossil Valley
Mandy Mitchell, SU601–Coacoochee
Dannye Necker, SU601–Coacoochee
Tiffany Nopper, SU654–Whispering Pines
Jessica O'Brien, SU682–Split Pines
Peter Parapon, SU654–Whispering Pines
Linda Peters, SU635–Spring Mermaids
Suzanne Pileggi, SU607–Sunny Palms
Jennifer Porter, SU676–Fossil Valley
Julie Pusateri, SU647–Wai Lani
Lisa Reyburn, SU612–Rising Daisies
Jen Ricottilli, SU682–Split Pines
Sarah Ruggieri, SU635–Spring Mermaids
Ashley Schultz, SU601–Coacoochee
Katie Sheppard, SU635–Spring Mermaids
Rebecca Skendrovic, SU647–Wai Lani
Lisa Smith, SU601–Coacoochee
Samantha Smith, SU615–Magical Dreamers
Karen Spangler, SU612–Rising Daisies
Kristina Springer, SU682–Split Pines
Roxanne Stewart, SU654–Whispering Pines
Jennifer Taitt, SU608–Toppercrest
Morgan Thomas, SU607–Sunny Palms

Susan Trischka, SU636–Silver Forest
Alanna Turner, SU654–Whispering Pines
Kelly Verra, SU607–Sunny Palms
Lisa Waits, SU682–Split Pines
Lesley Walters, SU635–Spring Mermaids
Jamie Watkins, SU607–Sunny Palms
Jill Weiler, SU682–Split Pines
Kimberly Wilmas, SU640–Crystal Waters
Jenda Zych, SU635–Spring Mermaids

10 Years of Service

Shavarne Bisnaught, SU640 - Crystal Waters
Denise Chambers, SU625 - Tierra Del Sol
Amanda Crawford, SU631 - Angel Echo
Shannon Custin, SU625 - Tierra Del Sol
Stephanie Dean, SU682 - Split Pines
Deborah Dille, SU676 - Fossil Valley
Tiffany Eaton, SU640 - Crystal Waters
Jennifer Farrell, SU619 - Lil Manatee
Dana Fields, SU608 - Toppercrest
Marilyn Fluke, SU631 - Angel Echo
Jillian Fortney, SU682 - Split Pines
Lisa Genco, SU612 - Rising Daisies
Joseph Gingrich, SU601 - Coacoochee
April Gingrich, SU601 - Coacoochee
Misty Gordon, SU631 - Angel Echo
Tanya Grable, SU608 - Toppercrest
April Grajales, SU612 - Rising Daisies

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida Awards

Years of Service Pins

Debbie Greer, SU655 - Trailblazers
Nicole Heald, SU676 - Fossil Valley
Amanda Henderson, SU654 - Whispering Pines
Lisa Henshaw, SU625 - Tierra Del Sol
Heather Holmes, SU655 - Trailblazers
Misty Hubbard, SU601 - Coacoochee
Nicole Karlson, SU655 - Trailblazers
Michelle Kasprzyk, SU654 - Whispering Pines
Dawn Klee, SU654 - Whispering Pines
Laura Kossoff, SU641 - Beautiful Waters
Susan Lee, SU640 - Crystal Waters
Samantha Lyons, SU608 - Toppercrest
Veronica Markiewicz, SU655 - Trailblazers
Kimberly Maszera, SU641 - Beautiful Waters
Nicole McGinnis, SU612 - Rising Daisies
Tami Mischler, SU640 - Crystal Waters
Lawrence Neil, SU601 - Coacoochee
Tina Parapon, SU654 - Whispering Pines
Laurie Perrone, SU612 - Rising Daisies
Adriane Riese, SU641 - Beautiful Waters
Belinda Robinson, SU682 - Split Pines
Stacey Rodriguez, SU618 - Orange Blossoms
Mike Sinnett, SU623 - Brooksville Ridge
Elaine Stromgren, SU676 - Fossil Valley
Sharlene Thompson, SU655 - Trailblazers
Brooke Weiland, SU619 - Lil Manatee

15 Years of Service

James Boswell, SU640 - Crystal Waters
Brooke Cenal, SU601 - Coacoochee
Anjanette Clark-Velasquez,
SU654 - Whispering Pines
Shari Fowler, SU654 - Whispering Pines
Michelle Gagnard, SU619 - Lil Manatee
Deanne Hennessee, SU625 - Tierra Del Sol
Dawn Horton, SU632 - Joining Rivers
Cathi Kessel, SU631 - Angel Echo
Renee Murch, SU631 - Angel Echo
Margaret Neil, SU601 - Coacoochee
Brittany Phillips, SU654 - Whispering Pines
Dianne Sanchez, SU676 - Fossil Valley
Amber Van Denzen Suarez,
SU616 - Lakeland Royal Swans

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida Awards

Years of Service Pins

20 Years of Service

Karen Bachmann, SU608–Toppercrest
Leah Frohnerath, SU654–Whispering Pines
Andrea Hamic, SU647–Wai Lani
Meredith Kluis, SU647–Wai Lani

25 Years of Service

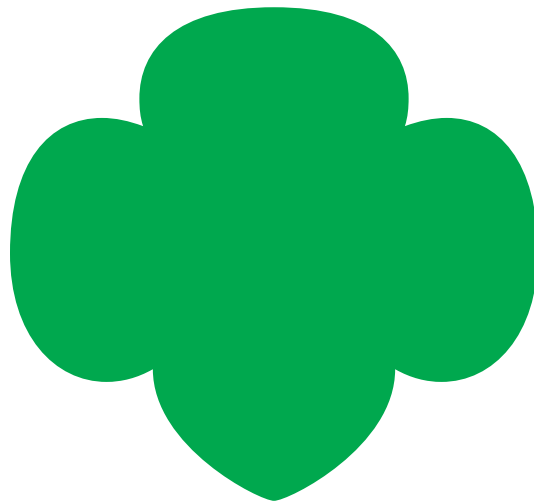
Susan Briggs, SU654–Whispering Pines
Lisa Fraser, SU601–Coacoochee
Dawn Gingrich, SU601–Coacoochee
Lynn Sansspree, SU632–Joining Rivers

30 Years of Service

Fran Ablock, SU654–Whispering Pines
Mary Paris, SU601–Coacoochee

40 Years of Service

Connie Vrchlavsky, SU601–Coacoochee



Girl Scouts of West Central Florida

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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.

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida
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