In Your Honor

Girl Scout
Gold Award
2025-2026

Gold Award Ceremony Run of show

Welcome
Jennifer Bartkowski, GSNETX CEO

Parent Appreciation
Donna Epps, GSNETX Board Chair

Gold Award Presentation

CEO Address
Jennifer Bartkowski, GSNETX CEO

Keynote address
Dr. Lovelie Moore, Toyota Financial Services

Closing Remarks
Jennifer Bartkowski, GSNETX CEO

Refreshments

Girl Scout Gold Award

Gold Award Girl Scouts are rock stars, role models, and real-life heroes. How do they do it? By using everything they've learned as a Girl Scout to help fix a problem in their community or make a lasting change in their world.

The Girl Scout Gold Award expresses a girl's special commitment to herself, her community, her world, and the future. To be eligible to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, a girl must be a registered Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador. For the 2025-2026 school year, 101 Girl Scouts from Northeast Texas earned the Girl Scout Gold Award.

It takes a minimum of 80 hours of intensive work for a girl to complete the prerequisites for the award, develop a plan, and complete the project. The award focuses on the interests and personal leadership journey of each girl. The project fulfills a need within a girl's community (whether local or global), creates change, and has the potential to be sustainable. This is more than a good service project. It encompasses organizational, leadership, and networking skills.

Girls who earn the Girl Scout Gold Award display more positive life outcomes than non-Girl Scout graduates. These include positive sense of self, life satisfaction, leadership, life success, community service, and civic engagement. Other findings from the report include the following:

- Gold Award Girl Scouts have had more leadership experiences.
- Gold Award Girl Scouts feel they have had success in their lives because of the unique experiences they had in Girl Scouts.
- Over 90% of Gold Award Girl Scouts attributed their success in life to Girl Scouts. They also said that they could not have had access to the same experiences anywhere else.

GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUT

The Mark of the Truly Remarkable.



The Girl Scout Promise And Law

The Girl Scout Promise and Law are shared by every member of Girl Scouting. By pledging to exemplify the Girl Scout Promise and Law, each Girl Scout is committed to making 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 for the word God in accordance with their own spiritual beliefs.*

2025-2026 Recipients

Evangeline Adcock

Aarohi Agarwal

Naima Ali

Advithi Baddam

Shezal Bardaie

Artina Belivan

Whitney Bell

Nidhi Benegal

Siena Bensley

Saida Bidiwala

Makayla Bland

Lily Bonds

Vivienne Bowe

Brielle Cash

Diya Cham

Maggie Cooley

Gabriela de la Garza

Emma Diana

Sarah Duncan

Sophia DuPont

Nixie (Robin) Easley-O'Neil

Kensli Espadron

Aubrey Fanucci

Mallory Featherston

Shreeya Gedda

Ishika Grandhi

Ava Greene

Ellie Grimes

Aarushi Gunavante

Krislyn Hart

Emma Hirsch

Autumn Hughes

Gryphon Hutcheson

Eunice Jiang

Arisa Jinnah

Zipporah Jones

Faith Kabugu

Sara Kabugu

Kashika Khurana

Ruhi Ladwa

Chloe LaGrone

Inaya Lalani

Lola Larson

Lizzie Lett

Milan Lindo

Ellie Manders

Jazmyne Maratas Marmolejo

Analiese L. Martinez

Olivia Matthew

Milo Maurer

Haadiya Mazhar

Ida McArthur

Madeline McShann

McKenna McShann

Mariam Mekbeb-Gillett

Kelly Morefield

Anathi Mudunuri

Aliyah Muhammad

Eshal Muhammad

Sophia Neisler

Kaylee Niles

Sravya Nori

Gabriela Noriega

Naomi Odogwu

Christine Park

Manyata Patel

Nandika Peddapuram

Sydney Peterson

Andrea Poches

Nithyashri Ramesh

Mischa Rutledge

Alayna Samnani

Elizabeth Sanderford

Victoria Santana

Anaiya Saxena

Laila Simone Scott

Rahma Shah

Saanavi Shah

Oviya Shenbaharaman

Luiza Soares

Aleena Sohani

Maree Suhalim

Kimberly Sullivan

Maha Tharwani

Kora Lynn Thomas

Omya Tomar

Madison Tsao

Nicole Varney

Zahra Vertejee

Sarah Villavicencio

Whitney Vinton

Sabrina Vrla

Daanya Walimohammad

Kate Webb

Kendra Webb

Caroline White

Lillian Williams

Toryn Williams

Katie Wootton

Katy Yan

Natasha Zbiljic

Evangeline Adcock
The Juliette Gordon Low Pollinator Garden

Evangeline created a pesticide-free pollinator garden at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center using Texas native plants to support declining pollinator populations. With volunteers, she weeded, planted, and shared educational booklets and native seeds. She also hosted a badge event for younger Girl Scouts and led a wildflower hike to teach others about the importance of pollinators and how to protect their habitats.



Aarohi Agarwal
Animal Shelter Support

Aarohi's goal was to reduce the number of pets returned to shelters by encouraging families to research pet care before adopting and by offering guidance to help pets properly acclimate to new environments. With her volunteer team, she created and donated 100 educational preschool coloring books for families to learn about caring for cats and dogs together. They also painted colorful canvases with tips on responsible pet ownership to educate visitors and brighten the shelter environment.



Naima Ali
Archery for Anxiety (A4A)

Naima addressed the issue faced in the Muslim refugee youth community by combining Islamic teachings and breathing exercises to improve spiritual, physical, and mental health. By partnering with Ma'ruf Dallas, Naima authored an archery curriculum, certified a Ma'ruf employee, collected archery equipment donations, and created archery equipment kits to donate to Ma'ruf to establish a free, faith-based archery program. This helped youth gain sense of belonging and reduced stress.



Advithi Baddam
Engineering the Future

Engineering the Future educates minority students, like girls and under-resourced youth, about STEM careers, problem solving, and collaboration. Advithi partnered with Camp Impact, Vogel Alcove, and Girls in STEM to hold hands-on camps with activities like slime, funded by $900 in supply donations, to teach STEM careers. Her project reached 250 students, giving students a STEM passport to track progress, practice problem solving, and access resources. Vogel Alcove will continue hosting these camps annually.



Shezal Bardaie
Getting Started on Healthy Eating

Shezal's project aimed to encourage healthy eating within our society by demonstrating how to do so in an inexpensive, tasty, and simple way. By teaching about the benefits and hosting classes on different recipes, she was able to share her knowledge and get participants' hands-on experience.



Artina Belivan
Zoroastrianism: The Impact I Want to Make in the World

Artina's project created a youth group focused on increasing awareness and understanding of Zoroastrianism while building community among the next generation. She led monthly meetings, workshops, and outreach efforts that encouraged meaningful conversations about faith and identity. Through social media, she expanded the impact beyond her local community and inspired youth to confidently embrace and share their beliefs.



Whitney Bell
Nature's Resources in Action

Whitney's project tackled the lack of environmental education at Haun Elementary by creating hands-on learning experiences. She built a rain barrel to support the school garden while teaching water conservation and resource reuse. She also constructed a human sundial and developed a classroom activity to help teachers integrate outdoor, experiential learning into their curriculum.



Nidhi Benegal
Permeable Path Project

Nidhi designed and built an educational walkway at her district's outdoor learning area focused on sustainability and environmental awareness. She used permeable materials so rainwater can soak into the ground instead of running off into nearby streams. This helps reduce erosion and prevent flooding, which had been damaging the area. She also installed educational signs about stormwater management and recycling so visitors can learn about sustainability while exploring the space.



Siena Bensley
Band Uniform Management and Inventory Handbook

Siena modernized the inventory management for her local marching band that consistently competes at the state level and prioritizes a pristine professional image. Every uniform underwent a meticulous cleaning and categorization process, followed by the integration of a barcode labeling system to create digital accountability and tracking. To sustain this project, she created a detailed handbook that will guide the future members of the band on fitting, cleaning, and other uniform processes.



Saida Bidiwala

Planetary Rush - An Educational Board Game

Saida developed Planetary Rush as an educational board game focused on space knowledge from 4th- and 5th-grade TEKS. She designed, assembled, and tested the game with the help of volunteers. After optimizing the game, she played it with children in underserved public schools in recreation centers' afterschool programs to give them more exposure to STEM. For broader impact, she donated the game to recreation centers and Community Partners of Dallas and created a website about creating educational games.



Makayla Bland

Freedom Ranch Hands

Makayla organized workshops where children experiencing mental health challenges cared for ranch animals, helping them build confidence and emotional resilience. Participants fed, groomed, and bonded with animals, fostering a sense of responsibility and healing. She also helped maintain the ranch environment to sustain the program, ensuring future participants can benefit from this therapeutic experience.



Lily Bonds

The Star in The Student

Lily's project promotes students' mental health by teaching them how to be motivated and set goals. Students were taught how to make habit trackers and how healthier habits can lead to a healthier mindset. An area was added to the Bullard Middle School library for students to make habit trackers, and fidget toys were added to the counselor's office. The project aims to show that small habits and dreams can make dreams come true.

Vivienne Bowe
Debate Skills

In the status quo, there is a resource gap between those who can participate in civil argumentation and those who do not have the knowledge to. In order to close that gap, I made it my goal to convey to middle school students the importance of having civil arguments about important topics through debate. I successfully presented to younger students the value of debate, in and outside of school through workshops and smaller sessions. The students have the tools and the resources to participate in debate alongside students who already had the resources to begin with.



Brielle Cash
Reproductive Health Board Game

Brielle created a fun and interactive board game about the anatomy and physiology of women's reproductive health. She was inspired to develop a fun and exciting way for teens to learn about a subject that can be a taboo topic. She worked with her school district to add the game to the curriculum for Anatomy & Physiology class. The game will teach teens about how their bodies work by making it a fun and memorable experience for years to come.



Diya Cham
ElderGuards

ElderGuards is a cybersecurity awareness initiative created to address the growing vulnerability of seniors to online scams. Motivated by personal experience and her grandparents' fear of online fraud, Diya Cham developed a website and YouTube channel featuring step-by-step lessons on navigating the internet safely. She also led cybersecurity workshops in senior living communities and created accessible resources to empower seniors with the knowledge and confidence to protect themselves online.



Maggie Cooley

The Fine Art of Stretching: Stretching for Athletes and Artists

Maggie's project focused on educating athletes, dancers, musicians, actors, and artists about the importance of stretching to prevent injury and stay healthy.



Gabriela de la Garza

Mix, Match, and Mutate

Gabriela used interactive genetics workshops to make science engaging and accessible for young learners. By designing hands-on activities that demonstrated inheritance, variation, and mutation, she helped students understand complex biological concepts through play-based learning. The project addressed gaps in early STEM exposure and promoted curiosity, critical thinking, and inclusivity in science spaces.



Emma Diana

Enhancing Musical Opportunities: Unlocking Potential, One Note at a Time

Emma created specialized musical boxes for students with special needs to use in their music classes. The project helped students participate more fully in music activities by giving them accessible instruments that match their abilities. Over several months, she designed, built, and tested the boxes, then trained teachers on how to incorporate them into lessons. To ensure sustainability, the school now has a system to maintain and reuse the boxes for future students.



Sarah Duncan
Public Science Lessons

Many elementary schools have limited time and resources dedicated to science instruction, which can reduce students' exposure to the subject. Sarah's goal was to increase access to science for children who may not experience it regularly at school or at home. She organized four hands-on science events where children explored a variety of scientific fields. Through these events, Sarah shared her passion for science and inspired curiosity and excitement in young learners. One participant even told her, "This is the first science experiment I have ever done! I love science!"



Sophia DuPont
Confidence in Dance

Sophia's project addressed performance anxiety in Rockwall middle schoolers. She mentored 45 dancers on technique and mental wellness. To ensure her impact lasts, she provided her drill team director with a sustainable roadmap of choreography and resources, empowering young athletes to lead with confidence both on and off the dance floor.



Nixie (Robin) Easley-O'Neil
Protohadros: The Texas Ornithopod

Nixie partnered with the Dallas Paleontological Society (DPS) to help them educate kids in DFW about dinosaurs found in the area. Her focus was on the Protohadros, a Cretaceous herbivore that has only ever been found in North Texas. She designed and created a 10' photo op Protohadros and printable worksheets for DPS to take to outreach and education events.



Kensli Espadron

Combatting Period Poverty and Increasing Awareness of Menstrual Health

Kensli's project focused on raising awareness and addressing period poverty on a local, national and global level. She sought to educate others on the prevalence of this issue and highlight its impact on women and girls in our region. She addressed the root cause of this issue by leading a community-wide donation drive to collect essential menstrual hygiene products. Through strategic outreach and partnerships, she successfully collected a total of 5,183 items, including 985 tampons, 3,742 sanitary napkins.



Aubrey Fanucci

Nourish to Flourish

Nourish to Flourish was a four-day long summer camp intensive for underfunded kids at a non-profit organization, KB Polk. During this four-day camp kids learned how to cook healthy, nutritious meals for their families like veggie spring rolls and chia seed Rice Krispy Treats. They also made 3 different types of sandwiches for our local homeless shelter. They also learned about knife and kitchen safety, developing hands-on experience in the kitchen and problem-solving skills.



Mallory Featherston

Walking Trails Across Pate

Mallory's project created and added trails to a rehabilitation facility for individuals who suffer from traumatic brain injuries. No matter the disability, people can use these trails to incorporate more into their therapy. Therapists can create engaging activities that utilize the trails. These trails can also serve as a way for patients to spend their free time. Trails are lined with words of encouragement and lights to guide their way across the facility.



Shreeya Gedda
Elder Financial Empowerment

Shreeya's project aimed to address the financial exploitation of elder citizens. Elder financial exploitation can be defined as stealing or misusing the money or assets of a person age 60 and above by another individual for their own benefit, rather than the elderly person's benefit. This deprives elderly people from rightful access to their financial resources which are necessary for their quality of life.



Ishika Grandhi
Heart To Home

Ishika created personalized care packages for seniors in assisted living and memory care facilities. She also hosted art therapy sessions, giving residents a chance to express themselves and connect with others. To sustain the project, she developed a website that guides others in creating customized care packages and understanding senior needs. Overall, "Heart to Home" aims to bring comfort, creativity, and meaningful connection to seniors in the community.



Ava Greene
The Transformative Power of Dance for Under-Served Children

Ava created and taught a free dance class for under-served children in her community. She designed her classes to build confidence, coordination, and a sense of belonging in each girl, making it free to unlimit access to dancing. She also trained her volunteers and made an online dance video to continue the program after the project's completion.



Ellie Grimes
A Place for Peace

Having personally struggled with anxiety herself, Ellie wanted to create a place in her community where people could go to get a sense of peace within nature. Her town had a small overgrown property and didn't know what to do with it. Through working with the town's government, she was able to use this land for her project. By cleaning up the area from trash and natural debris and adding walking paths, benches, bird houses, and a meditation labyrinth to create A Place for Peace.



Aarushi Gunavante
Sustainable Fashion at People's Impact Network

Aarushi aimed to address the issue of sustainable clothing choices, more specifically in South Asian clothing. Typically, South Asian clothing (like sarees, lehengas, and kurtas) are worn only once or twice for special events and then stored away, contributing to textile waste and unsustainable fashion practices. She aimed to make sustainability (otherwise known as thrifting) more common amongst the South Asian youth while also getting them involved into the community.



Krislyn Hart
Playground Communication Boards for Special Needs Students

Krislyn worked with individual schools to learn the needs of their students. She created a board for each school that students can use on the playground to communicate their wants and needs and to promote socialization.



Emma Hirsch
Deaf Culture and ASL Communications

Emma identified the lack of education for children on how to communicate with the Deaf community. With volunteer support, Emma educated 350 children at Folsom Elementary and at community events. Her presentations included tips for communicating with a deaf friend and basic ASL signs. For lasting impact, Emma created a classroom poster and gave each student a bookmark containing the information they learned. Emma also created an instruction booklet for replicating her project for Folsom and WGHS.



Autumn Hughes
Providing Normalcy for Childhood Cancer Patients

Due to personal experience with childhood cancer, Autumn's project aimed to provide childhood cancer patients with normal summer experiences while accounting for medical needs. In conjunction with Camp IHope, she hosted a laser-tag event and provided activity bags for those with various cancer diagnosis. She also informed surrounding communities of the importance of normalcy for cancer patients, speaking at SU 170's annual Summer Badge-mania and on the Wipe Out Kid's Cancer podcast.



Gryphon Hutcheson
Swap n' Score

Gryphon built the Swap n' Score as a sports equipment library to serve the under-resourced community through the Richardson YMCA. Gryphon's father helped build the structure which operates as a little library; people can take equipment that they need and donate equipment they don't. If the library ever becomes sparse, the YMCA will help refill it.



Eunice Jiang
Native Plants Irrigation Project

By directing the construction and implementation of a full greenhouse irrigation system at LISDOLA and developing educational content on native Texas plants, 18 thousand students annually will be able to learn and protect our environment's pollinators, plants, and biodiversity.



Arisa Jinnah
Empowerment Through Fashion

Arisa created and led Empowerment Through Fashion, a project designed to build confidence among women ages 25-55 facing body image challenges related to aging and societal beauty standards. She and her team organized two interactive workshops featuring a professional color analyst and an OB-GYN, along with hands-on styling activities. Participants learned about color analysis, body awareness, and intentional styling.



Zipporah Jones
Many Hands, More Healing

The "Many Hands, More Healing" workshop was designed to expose girls to a variety of medical careers. Zipporah networked with professionals working in small fields to give older girls a different perspective on their options after high school. Girls had the opportunity to meet with professionals and participate in hands-on activities while obtaining information about the careers. She created a global link for those who may be interested in doing a medical workshop, and girls received a custom patch.

Faith Kabugu
The Comfort Loop

Faith created and donated 100 fidget blankets to support seniors living with Alzheimer's, dementia, and anxiety. She hosted workshops at a retirement facility where residents, staff, and volunteers helped assemble the blankets. Faith also educated her school community about these conditions through presentations and distributed digital resources to care facilities to ensure continued awareness and support.

Sara Kabugu
Hats of Hope

Sara organized more than ten workshops teaching volunteers to loom hats for women and children undergoing chemotherapy, creating 100 hats donated to Children's Medical Center. Through these workshops, she raised awareness about the emotional impact of cancer. She also developed and shared an instructional guide so volunteers and families can continue making hats, extending the project's impact.

Kashika Khurana
Reviving Calm



Kashika created Reviving Calm, a free mindfulness program offering outdoor yoga and meditation sessions for youth and families. She developed wellness worksheets and partnered with schools to expand access to mental health resources. Her materials, including recorded meditations and wellness tools, are now used in school counseling offices, helping students build emotional regulation skills and manage stress.



Ruhi Ladwa
Nuvani Safe

Nuvani Safe is a digital platform designed to combat human trafficking through education and support. Ruhi developed a chatbot that provides users, especially young women, with information on recognizing warning signs and accessing resources. The project promotes digital literacy and empowers vulnerable communities by making safety tools easy to use and widely available.



Chloe LaGrone
Herbs for Good

Chloe's project addressed the food desert and disparity in Vickery Meadows, Dallas by providing each family with a pot of winter and spring herbs that will be distributed throughout the earlier months in the year. Through her synagogue, Temple Emanu-El, patrons of the Vickery Meadows Food Pantry receive sustainable and culturally significant greens that each family can maintain by taking these pots home to care and cultivate them.



Inaya Lalani
Python 101: Female Edition

Inaya's project aimed to bring awareness of STEM fields and empower the next generation of young girls to pursue computer science and other technical fields to bring diverse perspectives and lead with excellence in the digital world of tomorrow. She taught over 50 middle school girls the fundamentals of Python, a popular programming language, and developed their logical thinking and creative problem-solving skills with the help of a cohort of 15 volunteers with varying experience levels.



Lola Larson
Comfort Covers

Comfort Covers provides comfort to kids who have been through child abuse and gone through rough times. Because after a medical exam, it can feel uncomfortable and scary, the project aims to soothe that uncomfortable feeling with blankets. Comfort Covers aims to raise awareness about supporting kids emotionally, which is important no matter where you live.



Lizzie Lett
Seizure Safe Schools

Lizzie aimed to address the issue of the lack of awareness and preparedness of children, specifically middle school aged, to best respond when placed in a situation where an individual is experiencing a seizure. She spent time training and educating students about seizure first aid with the “Stay, Safe, Side” method. Through her presentations, she was able to educate more than 300 children on seizure awareness and first aid and have a lasting impact on the epilepsy community.



Milan Lindo
STEM Re|Purposed

STEM Re|Purposed is an initiative to enhance students’ science knowledge by developing and distributing hands-on science kits to under resourced schools. The kits align with the fourth-grade Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and utilize low-cost, repurposed, and replenishable materials to support inquiry-based learning. The project also incorporates STEM career connections, strengthening early science engagement while promoting sustainable, curriculum-aligned instruction.



Ellie Manders
Building a Compost Community

Ellie addressed the issue of excess waste and its negative environmental impact by informing Dallas residents of how they can dispose of their waste in more sustainable ways and to create less waste in general. She informed community members about how to compost their food waste and got many families doing it on their own.



Jazmyne Maratas Marmolejo
Hoot! I'm Home

Jazmyne's project involved building homes for Screech Owls and American Kestrels at the Heard Museum in Mckinney, TX. She made 16 birdhouses for the Heard Museum which are estimated to help for 20+ years. With the birds having this safe space, they can grow and incline as a population instead of decreasing over time.



Analiese L. Martinez
Memory Matters

Alzheimer's and Dementia are connected, dehumanizing diseases that rob individuals of themselves, stealing it, leaving a confused shell of a person and their loved ones trying to pick up the pieces. Through research, Analiese's project fills the needs of multiple cognitive abilities, to aid in bring back memories, calm the feeling of being lost, bring back laughter, stimulate memories and conversation, as well as physical skills. Her project is in memory of Abuelo and Mamaw.



Olivia Matthew
Seed to Read

For her project, Olivia ran a literacy program at a family shelter in Dallas. She and her volunteers held 10 reading and craft sessions over the course of six weeks to help foster a love of reading. They then created and designed literacy game kits that can be printed out for kids to use to improve their literacy skills. Finally, thanks to generous donors, she was able to donate 109 children's books to add to the library at the shelter.



Milo Maurer
Paws and Play - Serving Shelter Animals

Tennis balls can take 400 years to decompose! Through a permanent tennis ball donation box installed at Clubs of Prestonwood, gently used balls are now regularly recycled into joyful enrichment for shelter dogs at Dallas Animal Services. In just 11 months, Milo's project donated 4,000+ tennis balls, keeping them out of landfills, providing enrichment for shelter pups, and saving more than 5,000 pounds of carbon from the environment. Thanks to volunteers, the project will continue for years to come.



Haadiya Mazhar
A Sensory Cart to Support Montessori Learners

This project created a sensory cart for Montessori school children to support focus and emotional regulation. Filled with calming and tactile tools like fidgets and textured materials, the cart helps students self-soothe during moments of stress or overstimulation. Designed to align with Montessori values, it promotes independence, emotional awareness, and a calmer learning environment.



Ida McArthur

New Hope Education Materials

For her project, Ida worked with New Hope Learning Center, a nonprofit childcare center local to her community that provides childcare to under-resourced families at reduced cost. She made a variety of early education tools, including sewn tag blankets, sensory books, and a custom-built outdoor easel.



Madeline McShann

You Can Write a Book

Madeline's project highlighted local authors in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to demonstrate to students that everyone has a story and can write a book. Writing can promote great mental health, and students have an area to drop off material for others to read at the Highland Hills Neighborhood Services Center.



McKenna McShann

Highlights of Highland Hills

McKenna's project showcased notable individuals who have lived, worked, and made significant contributions to the Highland Hills Community. This includes policy makers, doctors, lawyers, athletes, and movers and shakers from the past and the present. Her project was developed to be a testament that great things do come from Highland Hills.



Mariam Mekbeb-Gillett
Giving Hands

Last summer, Mariam visited Amani Home in Kenya, a shelter for orphaned children, and found a shortage of school supplies and educational materials for 5th-6th graders, limiting their English and math learning. This has hindered their ability to complete middle school. To address this, Mariam created after school games, vocabulary bingo, Pictionary, synonyms, math and logic games as well as an instructional video to help students engage and improve skills. Her project will raise awareness and provide resources on this issue.



Kelly Morefield
Misophonia Awareness and Advocacy for Teens

Kelly created the “Resources for Teens with Misophonia” webpage at soQuiet.org, to provide tools for teens like her who struggle with the auditory processing disorder, Misophonia. Kelly partnered with the nonprofit soQuiet, and its global network of people with Misophonia to create soQuiet.org/teens, a webpage with original videos, blog posts, and printable materials to empower teens and help them develop self-advocacy skills to thrive in their lifelong journey with Misophonia.



Anathi Mudunuri
PadSense

Anathi collected over 1,200 sanitary pads through donation drives and distributed them to five Dallas homeless shelters to combat period poverty. She also created an educational website with hygiene tips and reproductive health information, accessible through QR codes in schools. Her project helped reduce stigma around menstruation while providing essential resources and education to those in need.



Aliyah Muhammad
Bowling Green Park and Community Garden Mulch Compost

Many communities face excess organic waste, poor soil health, and limited awareness of sustainable practices. Aliyah's project addressed the issue by promoting composting as an accessible solution. Two compost bins were installed at Bowling Green Park and Community Garden, reducing landfill waste, enriching soil, supporting ecosystems, and educating the community, creating lasting, meaningful change.



Eshal Muhammad
Penny Smart, Dollar Foolish

Eshal wrote and illustrated a personal financial literacy book for kids in grades 4-7 to help them build strong money management skills from an early age. The book incorporates concepts such as saving, budgeting, spending, and debt through simple language and visuals. She published the book on Amazon and conducted reading sessions at a local library and religious centers. In the sessions, she presented her book and played an interactive word search competition game to enhance the kids learning.



Sophia Neisler
Fish vs. Plastic

Sophia developed a program to educate students about the importance of carefully disposing and recycling plastic to protect bodies of water and the fish we consume. She wrote and self-published via Amazon an 80-page book named *Fish vs. Plastic*, integrating it into community outreach, while encouraging action to transform lakes and oceans into clean and environmentally friendly spaces. She also curated an Instagram page to raise awareness about the issue through reminders to dispose of and minimize plastic waste.



Kaylee Niles
Outdoor Meeting Area

Kaylee led a team of volunteers in building and furnishing an outdoor meeting area at a local youth center to create a safe and welcoming space for local youth. They repaired the collapsing roof, replaced uneven and hazardous surfaces with level gravel, built tables, and involved local youth organizations by adding stepping stones featuring each group's symbol and signatures.



Sravya Nori
Financial Literacy for Youth

Sravya designed a financial literacy curriculum for youth that targeted 4th and 5th grade students. She partnered with nonprofits, community centers, churches, and other Girl Scout troops. Additionally, to create a sustainable project, she provided each partnering organization with a copy of her curriculum so that the project can be replicated in the future. By educating youth on this topic, her project provided them with long-term financial skills and addressed the root cause of financial illiteracy.



Gabriela Noriega
Grace Place Church Mural

Gabriela created colorful murals at Grace Place Church to make the children's area more creative and welcoming. She led volunteers to design and paint the murals, helping inspire imagination, learning, and a stronger sense of community among the children. The murals promoted creativity, reinforced values like community, peace, and love, and served as a visual learning tool.



Naomi Odogwu
African Art Therapy Club

African Art Therapy Club strives to provide mental health education to all by creating a calm, supportive learning environment grounded in traditional African art practices. Participants learn essential strategies for maintaining emotional wellbeing and discover the ability to regulate their emotions, even amidst adversity. The learning space becomes a creative outlet as participants explore the stress-relieving benefits of art and use African artistic traditions as a means of self-expression.



Christine Park
Autism Awareness and Acceptance Campaign

Christine sought to increase people's awareness, understanding, and acceptance of autism. She conducted in-depth research and interviewed doctors, parents, activists, and individuals with autism. She then developed a unique and user-friendly educational presentation aimed at dispelling stereotypes of autism. She also conducted 13 in-person workshops and six online workshops to a total audience of over 600 registrants. She promoted her workshop on social media and a national network of Girl Scouts.



Manyata Patel
Mission: Innovation

Manyata founded and coached two FIRST LEGO League teams, teaching students to design, build, and program robots to complete mission-based challenges. During the Unearthed season, she guided them in identifying a real-world issue in archaeology and developing an innovative solution, which they presented and earned an award for at competition. Under her mentorship, both rookie teams developed strong technical skills and one qualified for the Regional Championship in their rookie year.



Nandika Peddapuram
Reviving the Lost Art of Sewing

Nandika taught Girl Scouts looking to earn their textile/art badge and community members basic hand-sewing skills, a lost art with today's machinery, through hands-on workshops and video tutorials. By pairing with the Frisco Heritage Museum, she designed almost 75 kits of varying complexity to present at the workshop, with 75% of participants mastering the stitch. Moreover, feedback from parents and participants helped her improve future kits, helping her reach a goal of reviving the lost art of sewing.



Sydney Peterson
Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy All-Inclusive Book Club

Sydney founded a school book club to improve literacy and create a welcoming space for students with social anxiety. Members vote on books and meet monthly to discuss them, building confidence and communication skills. She promoted the club through marketing and social media and tracked member growth through surveys. A co-leader will continue the club to ensure its longevity in 2026.



Andrea Poches
Journey to Emotions

Andrea's project aimed to provide guidance to recognize and address three primary emotional intelligence challenges children ages 8 to 11 faced. These challenges included self-awareness, self-regulation, empathy, and social skills. The goal was to develop a group of activities to help them evaluate, understand, and identify their emotions, recognize the emotions of others, and express their feelings appropriately. By doing so, they improved self-awareness, self-regulation, empathy, and social skills.



Nithyashri Ramesh
Become an Eco-Explorer

Nithyashri's project is an all-ages-friendly, augmented-reality game featured on the Agents of Discovery app dedicated to promoting awareness about the endangered Blackland Prairie area, a region in East Texas with only 1% of its original land still remaining. To teach others across the nation about the prairie's importance and conservation need, the game highlights six important plant and animal species, featuring information on their cultural significance and vital ecological benefits.



Mischa Rutledge
Friends Across Nations

Mischa's project addressed cultural ignorance and misunderstanding in school communities by creating a website and hosting forums. She developed a website featuring first-person interviews from individuals of diverse racial, religious, and educational backgrounds, highlighting how identity shapes high school experiences. Through videos, written stories, and guided discussion resources, the project fosters empathy, challenges stereotypes, and encourages meaning.



Alayna Samnani
Collegiate Academy Mentorship Program: Growth Through Cognitive Learning

Alayna's project is a dual-enrollment program where students earn a high school diploma and an associate's degree through college coursework. Starting at fourteen, she struggled to adjust until discovering psychology-based strategies to manage stress. She founded the Collegiate Academy Mentorship Program (CAMP), dedicating 300+ hours to an eight-session curriculum. With Psi Alpha mentors, CAMP reached 400+ freshmen, earning the 2025 National Chapter Service Award and creating lasting peer support.



Elizabeth Sanderford
The Use of Dogs with Jobs

Elizabeth raised a Canine Companions service dog in training while teaching others, including fellow Girl Scouts, about how service dogs can vastly improve lives and how they can get involved in making the world a more accessible place with the help of these service dogs.



Victoria Santana
Pocket for Preservation

Victoria's goal with her project was to create a butterfly garden using native Texas plants after she learned that there are few prairielands for butterflies; the lack of fuel during migration leads to lots of vulnerability for butterflies. Volunteers helped her plan at All Saints Catholic Church. After, she educated young Girl Scouts about native plants by making seed bombs at a Thanksgiving event and gave a presentation about her project to second-graders at her school.



Anaiya Saxena
The Compass Project

The Compass Project supports mental health in young children, especially those in DISD schools who may lack strong support at home. Many students face challenges that affect their behavior and well-being, and often need someone safe to talk to. Inspired by her own struggles with anxiety, she wanted to create a space where kids could openly share their feelings. Building trust over time, the project encourages them to open up about school, home life, and personal struggles, helping them feel less alone.



Laila Simone Scott
Helping Hands

Helping Hands is a student-run service program founded to advance educational equity. Volunteers tutor students at Nathan Adams Elementary, many from working-class, Spanish-speaking households, in reading, writing, math, and ESL. Referred by teachers for academic or language challenges, students receive individualized support and mentorship. The program has since become a sustained school-wide initiative.



Rahma Shah
ICNA Relief Transitional House

Rahma completed a project transforming transitional housing into a warm, supportive space for homeless and refugee mothers and their children. The bedroom was updated with bunk beds, ten new bedsheets, and a small vegetable garden was created for fresh produce. A kids' corner with a table, chairs, 250 books, 50 board games, and 200 stuffed toys was set up to support learning and play. Additionally, 20 giveaway packets were prepared for school-aged children to aid in their transition.



Saanavi Shah,
Tiny Feet, Big Stories: Exploring Bharatanatyam

Saanavi's project promoted cultural education in young children by introducing them to Bharatanatyam, an Indian classical dance form, through interactive workshops. She led story time, demonstrated basic dance steps, and taught mudras (hand gestures) with their meanings through fun games. Workshops at Natyam Academy and the Allen Public Library were supplemented with storybooks and take-home resources to foster long-term appreciation and continued learning of Bharatanatyam.



Oviya Shenbaharaman
Proactive, No Screen Active

Oviya created reusable activity kits that offer children engaging, screen-free alternatives. Each kit includes self-made and complementary materials that promote creativity and interactive play, along with simple step-by-step instructions for independent use. All materials are reusable, with laminated worksheets and dry-erase checklists. To ensure sustainability, she provided a QR code with a "how-to" guide and a public YouTube video so others can recreate and continue using the kits.



Luiza Soares
Rooted Revival: Vegetables for Women's Wellness

Luiza's project created three healing gardens at AGAPE's Jericho Village, focused on digestive health, immunity, and strength. She left planting guides, a landscape design, and a budget to help families maintain them. She also worked with the Collin County Master Gardeners Association for a Junior Garden Badge. Her project promoted emotional healing, community connection, and healthy living, empowering families to continue growing and thriving.



Aleena Sohani
Block The Burn

Aleena's "Block the Burn" campaign focused on increasing awareness of sun safety among children of all ages. She authored a rhyming children's book, Sunny Days with Sally, designed to teach foundational sun protection skills in an engaging way. She also led interactive workshops and created a website featuring original educational games to reinforce learning. As a result, young audiences are empowered to take ownership of their skin health.



Maree Suhalim
Mind Over Matter

Inspired by the mental health crisis and a previous mission trip to Guatemala, Maree worked at the Hogar Suyapa in Honduras where she implemented mindfulness habits for the kids and educating the staff about the significance of mental health by creating age-appropriate meditations and breathing exercises to help them use mindfulness to de-stress and calm down. She also made a feelings chart for the younger kids to decorate their rooms with so they can visualize their feelings and different breathing maps.



Kimberly Sullivan
Keeping Hearts Warm

Kimberly developed Keeping Hearts Warm as a 501c3 non-profit based in Frisco, Texas. It is a volunteer organization that hand crochets blankets for various relief organizations. Throughout its time as a Gold Award project, those donations went to a local Stephen's ministry, which distributed them to cancer patients, and the Dallas VA hospital. The project created 700+ volunteer hours and leadership roles for local students before its Gold Award approval.



Maha Tharwani
Blankets for Kids

When children are sick and must stay in hospitals for treatment, they may not be comfortable during those difficult times. Recognizing this, Maha wanted her project to be based on making such children comfortable by making and giving blankets as a reminder that they are not alone. Comfort is vital for these children as it directly impacts their well-being and recovery. It reduces anxiety, promotes better rest, and encourages them to engage in activities necessary for healing.



Kora Lynn Thomas

Breaking Barriers: Making Sport Accessible for Kids in Underserved Communities

Kora's project addressed the rising cost of youth sports and the pay-to-play culture sweeping the nation. It focused on increasing access to athletics for students who cannot afford club sports. Through her high school's social impact club, Coaching for Change, private school students mentored elementary students. Kora also hosted a free soccer clinic, created instructional videos for at home practice, and built community partnerships to provide equipment, mentorship, and continued access to sports.



Omya Tomar

Cyberbloom

Omya's project empowers senior citizens to confidently navigate the digital world through engaging, hands-on weekly workshops. Participants build essential skills in online safety, smartphone use, email communication, video calling, and recognizing scams. The program emphasizes real-world applications, helping seniors stay connected with family, access important services, and maintain independence in an increasingly technology-driven world.



Madison Tsao

I See You to Avoid the ICU

Distracted driving is a preventable danger on our roads. Madison's project focused on educating young teen drivers. She and her team spoke to her community about committing to staying alert and engaged while behind the wheel. They also distributed flyers and buttons with safe driving tips. She led a team to help the PTSA renumber 278 senior spots at Plano East Senior High, making them larger, clearer and more visible to all. Her project's message is: Help spread the word! If we SEE each other, we can help avoid the ICU.



Nicole Varney
Buddying Up for Dyslexia

Nicole created a reading program to support struggling elementary readers. The students were paired with trained fifth-grade mentors for weekly reading and writing activities using curated books and resources. The program showed improved reading skills and confidence among younger students, while mentors gained leadership and empathy. Training videos, audiobooks, and a sustainable checklist were created so the program can be implemented in any elementary school to support early literacy intervention.

Zahra Vertejee
Stayin Safe in the Digital World

Zahra developed and led a workshop series to help seniors recognize and avoid online scams. Covering topics like phishing, password safety, and impersonation, she used real-life examples and interactive discussions to build confidence in navigating the digital world. Her curriculum and materials were shared with organizations and schools to ensure the program can continue reaching others.



Sarah Villavicencio
Learning to Connect: Socialization Among Young Students with Disabilities

Through her project Sarah helped create supportive and inclusive environments that help students with disabilities thrive in early learning settings. She raised awareness and promoted acceptance of neurodiversity in her community, while also growing as a more compassionate and informed advocate.



Whitney Vinton
Protecting the Night Sky

Whitney educated others about our night sky and the issues with light pollution. She worked with Scenic Texas, a local non-profit, to publish a kid-friendly website and a printable tri-fold on a page on their website. She created two library display cases with facts, diagrams, and night sky book ideas in local libraries. At her service unit campout, she educated over 120 kids and youth about light pollution and what they can do at home to help the cause.



Sabrina Vrla
Art & Heart Wellness Fair

Sabrina created a fair that highlights ways to nurture total health in mind, body, and spirit by providing sessions from local wellness professionals who promote physical and mental health connection. The fair also showcases musicians and craftsmen who use their talents to foster their mental health and that of others. The fair illustrates people use artistic means to channel mental energy into positive production, and techniques to strengthen mental health, such as yoga, meditation, sound exposure, and animal assistance.



Daanya Walimohammad,
Blankets of Courage for Cleft Palate Champions

For her Gold Award, Daanya made and donated tie blankets to children with cleft palates who were undergoing surgery. These handmade blankets were created to provide comfort and warmth during a stressful time, helping the kids feel more at ease before and after their procedures. As part of her project, she also hosted workshops where volunteers helped make the blankets. During these workshops, she gave a presentation on what a cleft palate is and how it impacts children for people who are unfamiliar with it.



Kate Webb
Beelieve in Change

For her Gold Award, Kate educated the community on the benefits of pollinators by giving away “seed bombs” to encourage planting flowers. These “seed bombs” included soil as well as seeds from calendulas and zinnias, both flowers being known for attracting pollinators. She worked with an advisory team consisting of a Bishop Lynch teacher and a Girl Scout advisor. She led volunteers at multiple farmers’ markets to give away seed bombs to the community.



Kendra Webb
Trail Revival

The trail to Alligator Pond at Camp Bette Perot was heavily overgrown. Kendra pulled together a team, and they were able to make the trail safe and more enjoyable for everyone. This was something the camp really needed, and the camp director was very pleased with the results.



Caroline White
Dyslexia Awareness

Caroline’s dyslexia awareness project helps people understand how dyslexia affects school and home life. Through this project, she shared her experiences and gave multiple presentations with interactive activities to show what students with dyslexia experience. She also created a website that provides resources and tips for students and parents, aiming to reduce misunderstandings and support the community in understanding learning differences.



Lillian Williams
Comic Creation Camp - A Creative Journey

With this project, Lillian addressed the inaccessibility of creative instruction. Many kids are never properly introduced to art. She has loved art her whole life, but without support from her school and her parents, she wouldn't have developed the passion she has for it today. Every kid carries with them an enormous potential for creativity, but few know how to take the first and most intimidating step. With her Gold Award, she has supported kids' creativity through encouragement and artistic instruction.



Toryn Williams
DigiDance

Toryn's project aimed to make dance and dance-related resources and information more accessible. Aspiring dancers, herself included, often struggle to find guidance on pursuing a professional dance career. To address this, she created online resources like a YouTube channel and Instagram account to provide free dance knowledge to anyone interested. Additionally, she hosted an online and in-person supply drive, where people donated and bought dance attire for her to deliver to those in need.



Katie Wootton
Playing with a Purpose

For her project, Katie researched the impact that fine-motor issues have on elementary students in her community. She found that there is little attention given to this issue in schools, so she created sixty handmade fine-motor kits and donated them to the Notre Dame School of Dallas. She recruited peers to educate and help assemble kits and held a workshop for elementary school students in her community. Each kit includes four portable activities that are created for use at home by families.



Katy Yan
Blooming Into Environmental Awareness

Katy designed and organized up-cycling workshops, partnering with the Coppell Biodiversity Center to raise awareness over environmental pollution and encourage sustainable habits. At these workshops, Katy set up multiple stations and led a team of volunteers to help children learn the many creative ways that items can be reused. Additionally, Katy collaborated with a local flower farm and helped create a marketing campaign to raise awareness for sustainable farming practices.



Natasha Zbiljic
Bee Clean

Natasha presented to 75+ Franklin Middle Schoolers about the importance of hygiene. Through this project she gifted them with hygiene kits, supplied by I Support the Girls (ISTG). She was able to help the girls understand the importance of hygiene and their menstrual cycles and different types of products to use.

Many Thanks to the 2025-2026 Gold Award Committee

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