

**Volunteer of Excellence Award**  
**Reviewed in Service Area or by Council Review Committee**



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

**Criteria:** This award has two tracks: (for troop level volunteers and other volunteers). The criteria are slightly different depending on the track.

The candidate:

<b>For troop-level volunteers, the candidate:</b>	<b>For other volunteers, the candidate:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is a current registered member of GSUSA</li> <li>• has successfully completed a term of service and all requirements for the position.</li> <li>• performance has resulted in outstanding service while partnering <u>directly with girls</u> in any pathway to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (the goal of which is to support girls in reaching the following outcomes: develop a strong sense of self, display positive values, seek challenges and learn from setbacks, form and maintain healthy relationships, and identify and solve problems in the community)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is a current registered member of GSUSA</li> <li>• has successfully completed a term of service and all requirements for the position.</li> <li>• has contributed outstanding service in support of the council's mission delivery to girl and adult members</li> </ul>
Send nomination forms and letters of endorsement to the Service Area committee.	Send nomination forms and letters of endorsement to the council recognitions committee.

**Nominated by and Endorsed by:** An individual familiar with the service performed and willing to coordinate the submission of the nomination and any follow-up questions submits a nomination form including a list of individuals (or groups of individuals) that have agreed to write Letters of Endorsement. Candidates for the Volunteer of Excellence need **two** letters of endorsement. The person submitting the nomination may be one of the individuals endorsing the candidate. All letters of endorsement need to be individually written and provide specific accounts of the service provided by the candidate.

**Approval:** Troop-level nominations are submitted to and reviewed by the Service Area committee. If there is no Service Area committee, attach a staff letter confirming this and submit materials to the council committee. Nominations and letters of endorsement for other nominees are submitted for review by the council recognitions committee.

**Form of Recognition:** The Volunteer of Excellence Award (troop level) is presented at a Service Area event; other Volunteer of Excellence Awards are presented at a Council level Awards event.

**Potential candidates for the Volunteer of Excellence Award:**

- A volunteer Program Advisor works over the course of the year with a teen advisory committee. The 30 current Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors planned and delivered four performance day camps, using content from the aMuse journey, targeted to girls in underserved areas in the council. As a result, those areas had a combined total of 210 new Junior girl members and 16 new adult volunteers; 92 percent of the girls at camp also signed up for other opportunities during the year.
- A college-student volunteer who was recruited by IT to help with data entry saw a posting on the council's Facebook page encouraging recognition of volunteers on Leader's Day. She saw the opportunity to use the council's Website to make this type of volunteer recognition easy and relevant for everyone to use. In coordination with council staff, she helped launch a recognition page on the Website that leverages tools like e- cards and online voting campaigns, highlights real volunteer success stories, and provides valuable information on ways to thank all volunteers throughout the year. As a result, 4,700 personal thank-yous were sent to volunteers last year by council leadership and staff, volunteers, parents, and girls. Nominations for council and GSUSA earned awards also rose by 35 percent, and volunteers reported feeling highly valued on satisfaction surveys 22 percent more than the previous year.

**Deadline for Completed Submission:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in February**

**Volunteer of Excellence Award Nomination Form**

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

This nomination is for the (check one): \_\_\_\_\_ Troop/Local Level      \_\_\_\_\_ Broader Level

Contact Information:

	Candidate: Person Being Nominated	Sponsor: Person Submitting the Nomination
Name:		
Address:		
Phone:		
e-mail:		
Previous awards and dates:		

Confirmation of eligibility:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Registered adult Girl Scout in good standing  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Successfully completed a term of service and all requirements for the position

The two letters of endorsement must be independently written and address the following:

- Context (how the endorser knows the person being nominated)
- Troop level nominees: Specific information/support for how the performance has resulted in outstanding service while partnering directly with girls in any pathway to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (the goal of which is to support girls in reaching the following outcomes: develop a strong sense of self, display positive values, seek challenges and learn from setbacks, form and maintain healthy relationships, and identify and solve problems in the community)
- Beyond troop level nominees: Specific information for how the performance has resulted in outstanding service in support of the council’s mission delivery to girl and adult members

	Name and address of individuals providing letters of endorsement—The person submitting the nomination may serve as one of the endorsers.
1	
2	

[Preferred submission method]: Collect all letters of endorsement and send a complete nomination packet as attachment(s) to an email sent to [adultrecognitions@gshg.org](mailto:adultrecognitions@gshg.org).

[Alternative method]: Have each person completing a document submit her part as separate attachments to an email submitted to [adultrecognitions@gshg.org](mailto:adultrecognitions@gshg.org) and include the following in the body of the email: award name, name of the individual being nominated, name of the sponsor, and name of the individual(s) associated with the attachment(s).

----- Office Use Only -----

**Award: VOE    Application #: \_\_\_\_\_    Endorsement #: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Volunteer of Excellence Award Endorsement Cover Page**

Troop and Local or Service Area Team Members, Regional and Council Level Volunteers

This nomination is for the (check one): \_\_\_\_\_ Troop/Local Level          \_\_\_\_\_ Broader Level

Name of the person being nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the person providing this endorsement: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the Sponsor (person coordinating the nomination): \_\_\_\_\_

**DO NOT USE THE NAME OF THE PERSON BEING NOMINATED IN THE LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT.** [Instead use statements such as: “As a member of \_\_\_\_\_ committee”, “She used professional experience as a \_\_\_\_\_”...]

Attach this cover page to your letter of endorsement or include it as the first page of an electronic file where your letter starts on page 2. The review process uses “blind” reviews, so this page will be removed from the material going to the Review Committee. The committee will expect each person providing an endorsement to provide her own perspective about the candidate—rather than a form letter used by multiple endorsers.

**DO** include specific information related to the following:

- Context (how the endorser knows the person being nominated)
- Troop level nominees: Specific information/support for how the performance has resulted in outstanding service while partnering directly with girls in any pathway to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (the goal of which is to support girls in reaching the following outcomes: develop a strong sense of self, display positive values, seek challenges and learn from setbacks, form and maintain healthy relationships, and identify and solve problems in the community)
- Beyond troop level nominees: Specific information/support for how the performance has resulted in outstanding service in support of the council’s mission delivery to girl and adult members

Type or neatly write your endorsement on a separate page (Remember NOT to use the person’s name since these go through a blind review process; do NOT sign your name).

Once complete, submit your letter of endorsement following the instructions provided by the person coordinating the nomination (the sponsor). Note: This person may give you an earlier deadline than the council deadline to allow her time to assemble all material and submit a single completed nomination packet in one email.

----- Office Use Only -----

Award: VOE    Application #: \_\_\_\_\_    Endorsement #: \_\_\_\_\_