girl scouts
heart of new jersey

Volunteer Recognition Awards

Your Guide to the 2025 Volunteer Recognition Awards

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The Volunteer Recognition Awards celebrate the extraordinary efforts of our volunteers who inspire and empower girls to build courage, confidence, and character. This guide will walk you through the nomination process, explain the awards, and help you honor the individuals who make a difference in our Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ) community.

Key Dates:

- **Nominations Open:** Monday, January 6, 2025
- **Nominations Close:** Sunday, February 9, 2025
- **Event Date:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 (Location TBD)

Why Nominate?

Our volunteers are the heart of our Girl Scout council, and your nomination is a meaningful way to honor their commitment and dedication. By nominating a volunteer, you're recognizing their exceptional achievements and celebrating the incredible difference they make in shaping our organization. This is your chance to show appreciation for those who inspire and empower others, strengthening our community and encouraging more individuals to contribute.

Awards

Honor Pin

Awarded for exceptional service that extends across two or more service units, this recognition highlights a volunteer's broad impact in GSHNJ's mission.

Appreciation Pin

Celebrates outstanding service within a single service unit, recognizing volunteers who go above and beyond to strengthen their local Girl Scout community.

Volunteer of Excellence

Given to a volunteer in a position other than a leader who provides exceptional service to a troop or service unit ensuring Girl Scouts receive meaningful Girl Scout Leadership Experiences.

Dedicated Leader Award

Honors troop leaders or group coordinators who consistently excel in delivering transformative Girl Scout Leadership Experiences for their members.

Rookie of the Year

Highlights the remarkable contributions of Rookie of the year is given AFTER these volunteers have completed their first year of service, so they completed a year of service in MY24 (Oct. 1, 2023-Sept. 30, 2024) who made an immediate impact in delivering GSHNJ's mission.

Community Partnership Award

Acknowledges individuals, groups, businesses, or organizations outside of the Girl Scout movement whose partnership has provided significant benefits to GSHNJ in delivering its mission.

Service & Membership Recognition

Volunteer Service Award:

Celebrates the combined years of active adult volunteer service in a Girl Scout or Girl Guide organization, recognizing milestones in five-year increments. Volunteer service of 15+ years is awarded at the Volunteer Recognition Awards Dinner.

Membership Tenure:

Honors an individual's total years of membership, combining both youth and adult participation in any Girl Scout or Girl Guide organization, with recognition given in five-year increments. Membership tenure of 20+ years is recognized by GSHNJ with a letter and membership tenure pin mailed to the member's home.

How to Nominate

1
Identify a Volunteer to Celebrate

Think of someone whose contributions have made a lasting impact on Girl Scouts, troops, or the community.

2
Review the Nomination Decision Tree

Use the decision tree to match your nominee's achievements to the most appropriate award.

3
Complete the Nomination Form

Provide clear examples of the nominee's impact, aligning their achievements with the selected award.

(Tips on how your submission can stand out is on page 7!)

4
Gather Endorsements

Attach letters of recommendation at the time of submission or have endorsers email them to volunteerrecognition@gshnj.org with the nominee's name and "Volunteer Recognition Awards" in the subject line.

5
Submit Your Nomination

Upload your completed form and all supporting materials via the nomination portal on our website.

Tips for a Strong Nomination

Make your nomination shine with these helpful tips!

1. Be Specific and Detailed:

Highlight the nominee's contributions with clear examples that demonstrate how their service exceeded expectations. Focus on concrete achievements and measurable results.

2. Tell Their Story:

Share the nominee's Girl Scout journey, including their positions, length of service, and personal impact. Connect their efforts to the mission of building courage, confidence, and character.

3. Show Their Impact:

Explain how their work benefited others—whether it's Girl Scouts, troops, service units, or the broader community. Include meaningful details such as events organized, girls mentored, or funds raised.

4. Align the Award Criteria:

Ensure your nomination reflects the specific criteria for the award. Demonstrate how the nominee meets or surpasses these standards.

5. Enlist Support for Endorsements:

Enlist others who have worked closely with the nominee to write and submit endorsements. These additional perspectives can help strengthen your nomination.

What Happens Next

After Submitting a Nomination:

1. **Submission Confirmation:**
   After you submit your nomination through the online portal, you'll receive a confirmation email. If additional information or clarification is required, we'll contact you directly.

2. **Review Process:**
   - **Initial Screening:**
     The Volunteer Recognition Awards Committee reviews all nominations to ensure they are complete and align with the award criteria. Incomplete forms or missing endorsements may result in disqualification.
   - **Detailed Evaluation:**
     A panel of GSHNJ staff, council leaders, and experienced volunteers carefully evaluates each nomination. The panel assesses nominees based on the impact of their contributions, alignment with the Girl Scouts' mission, and measurable outcomes.
   - **Consensus Meeting:**
     The panel convenes to discuss and finalize honoree selections, ensuring decisions are fair, unbiased, and reflective of each nominee's contributions.

3. **Selection Notification:**
   Sponsors of selected honorees will be notified by March 12, 2025, with ample time to confirm attendance at the recognition event. If a nominee is not selected, their sponsor will be notified.

4. **Recognition Ceremony:**
   Honorees will be celebrated at the Volunteer Recognition Awards Dinner on Tuesday, April 29, 2025. Details about the event, including time and location, will be shared closer to the date.

FAQs

How do I know which award to choose?

Review the descriptions in this guide as well as the decision tree to match your nominee to the best award.

Can I nominate more than one person?

Yes, but a separate nomination form is required for each nominee.

Closing & Contact Info

Recognizing a volunteer's dedication strengthens our Girl Scout community. Submit your nomination today and help us celebrate their achievements!

Contact Information:

Questions? Contact volunteerapplications@gshnj.org and someone from the team will assist you.