



Volunteers are the heart and soul of Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey - and everyday heroes to thousands of members in our council. Do you know an adult volunteer, a group of volunteers, or a community partner who has shown exceptional volunteerism and dedication to our movement?

Nominate them for an Volunteer Recognition Award!

Consider This When Sponsoring a Volunteer Recognition Nomination

When originating a nomination, use these guidelines and the [Decision Tree](#) to identify the appropriate award, and ask yourself the following questions:

- What other Volunteer Recognition Awards has my nominee received? Use this [list](#) as a starting point.
- Who else can support me in telling this story? Who has personal experiences that demonstrate my nominee's outstanding volunteerism? If your service unit has an Award coordinator, they can help!
- NOTE: If you're nominating for *Membership Tenure Numeral Guards* for 20+ years, or *Volunteer Service Awards* for 15+ years, you do not need to complete this nomination form. Instead, simply submit this [form](#) by email.

When *preparing* your nomination, consider the [criteria](#) for the award and ask yourself the following questions:

How can I best tell the story of my nominee's volunteerism?

How did their service go beyond what is already expected for the position?

What are *specific* examples of things they've done, or actions they've demonstrated? Are there documented results achieved from these actions?

How do I collect data that will support my nomination? Who can help me gather any information I'm lacking?

My Service Unit Manager? My Service Unit Awards Coordinator? A member of GSHNJ staff?

When *writing* your nomination or endorsement make sure it is:

Specific: fully describe the nominee's volunteerism and describe instances, actions, and results that illustrate how they have met or exceeded the criteria for this award. Remember that endorsements that refer to different types of service are far more influential than multiple iterations of the same instance of service.

Brief: state succinctly why you think this volunteer is a candidate for this award.

Clear: write simply so that reviewers easily understand the nominee's volunteerism activities.

How to be Specific When Telling Your Story

Not specific: In addition to leading a Brownie troop, Maria took over as Service Unit Cookie Manager when Sally resigned. It was a successful sale.

Specific: In addition to leading a Brownie troop, Maria took over as a Service Unit Cookie Manager when Sally resigned. Although she had not worked with cookies beyond her troop, she processed orders for 19,264 boxes of cookies with no errors. Through thoughtful troubleshooting and skillful management of her peers, Maria's dedication enabled our service unit to achieve 96% participation in the sale and increase our overall sales by 10%.

Not Specific: Monique is a dedicated leader and an inspiration to all of us.

Specific: When her daughter bridged to Cadettes, but didn't have a troop to enter, Monique formed a new troop that rapidly grew to 25 members. She enlisted the aid of several parents and assigned them each a role to help manage the troop's activities. They practiced inclusive behavior working as a "sister troop" to a troop whose members have developmental disabilities and invited them on their annual overnight at Camp Hoover. Retention for this troop has been 95% for the past two years. Monique is an inspiration to all of us.

Step 1



You are the *sponsor* of this nomination. Enter your information here:

Your Name:	Service Unit:	Troop:
Relation to Nominee:	Email:	

Are you nominating an *individual* for an award? Enter their information here:

Nominee's Name:	Service Unit:	Troop:
Current Volunteer Position(s):	Email:	

Are you nominating a *group* for an award? Enter their information here:

Name of Group:	Name of Group's Contact:
Contact's Position:	Contact's Email:

I have verified that this nominee fulfills the general criteria for this award:

- Registered member(s) *N/A for Plaque of Appreciation* In good standing with GSHNJ Has not already earned award *Not applicable for President's Award*

For which Volunteer Recognition Award are you nominating the above person or group?

- Rookie of the Year Appreciation Pin Thanks Badge II [Thanks Badge awarded on _____]
- Volunteer of Excellence Honor Pin President's Award
- Dedicated Leader Award Thanks Badge Plaque of Appreciation

NOTE: If you're nominating for Membership Tenure Numeral Guards for 20+ years, or Volunteer Service Awards for 15+ years, you do not need to complete this nomination form. Instead, simply submit this [form](#) by email.

DESCRIBE WHO HAS BENEFITED FROM YOUR NOMINEE'S SERVICE.

It will help us to understand whom your nominee is serving when they volunteer - a troop?

Your whole service unit? Several service units? Tell us about them.

DESCRIBE THE POSITION(S) HELD BY YOUR NOMINEE AND LENGTH OF SERVICE IN EACH.

Tell us about your nominee's history with Girl Scouts.

DESCRIBE THE IMPACT OF YOUR NOMINEE'S SERVICE.

Describe the things your nominee has done that really make them shine. Make sure to tell a full story so we get a clear picture of how they've fulfilled the criteria for this award, and how their service has benefited those they're serving.

Provide specific examples that demonstrate service beyond expectations for the role, and results achieved.

Step 2

Get Help in Telling Your Story

Most Volunteer Recognition Awards require multiple voices in telling the story of your nominee's achievements.

The next step in preparing your nomination is soliciting endorsements from others who can support your nomination.

- Review the number of endorsements required for this award:
 - Rookie of the Year Award: *one*
 - Volunteer of Excellence: *one*
 - Dedicated Leader Award: *one from an adult, one from a Girl Scout*
 - Appreciation Pin: *one*
 - Honor Pin: *one from within the home service unit plus one from without*
 - Thanks Badge: *three*
 - Thanks Badge II: *three, plus nominee has received the Thanks Badge as verified by GSHNJ*
 - President's Award: *any number of high-quality, robust, specific endorsements*
 - Plaque of Appreciation: *one*
- Make sure your endorser(s) represent the audience your nominee is serving and can speak to the service you illustrated in your story above.
- Once you've completed Step 1, send a copy to your selected endorser(s) and have them complete Step 3 below. Extra endorsements are discouraged.

Step 3

You are the *endorser* of this nomination. Enter your information here:

Your Name:	Service Unit:	Troop:
Relation to Nominee:	Email:	

DESCRIBE THE IMPACT OF THIS NOMINEE'S SERVICE.

Describe the things your nominee has done that really make them shine. Provide specific examples not included in Step 1 that demonstrate service beyond expectations for the role, who was impacted, and results achieved.

Your Name:	Service Unit:	Troop:
Relation to Nominee:	Email:	

DESCRIBE THE IMPACT OF THIS NOMINEE'S SERVICE.

Describe the things your nominee has done that really make them shine. Provide specific examples not included in Step 1 that demonstrate service beyond expectations for the role, who was impacted, and results achieved.

Your Name:	Service Unit:	Troop:
Relation to Nominee:	Email:	
<p>DESCRIBE THE IMPACT OF THIS NOMINEE'S SERVICE. Describe the things your nominee has done that really make them shine. Provide specific examples not included in Step 1 that demonstrate service beyond expectations for the role, who was impacted, and results achieved.</p>		

Step 4

Once you have completed this form and compiled the appropriate number of endorsements, please email this form to volunteerrecognition@gshnj.org.

Volunteer Recognition Award nomination packages must be received by February 9, 2025.

Need Help? Have questions?

Contact the team at volunteerrecognition@gshnj.org or call 908-518-4400.

