



Volunteer Appreciation & Awards Guide

Girl Scouts of Hawai'i values you—our adult members and volunteers—who work every day to champion girl ambition! We believe that one of the best ways to support you is to celebrate you when you exceed expectations. Girl Scout Volunteer Awards are meant to recognize adult members who go above and beyond, resulting in exceeding the expectations of their positions and changing our organization, and even the world as we know it.

Volunteers across our islands are encouraged to nominate superb adults for nationally recognized awards and are encouraged to hold Service Unit Recognitions in their local areas. Detailed descriptions of all awards, as well as nominating instructions and proper forms or links to forms are included in this guide.

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Volunteer Awards

Girl Scouts of the USA has chartered these awards for use across the Girl Scout Movement. These awards move in a progression and can be awarded to any volunteer if the nomination criteria are met. Recipients are honored at an annual recognition event.



Volunteer of Excellence

This award recognizes 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.



Appreciation Pin

The Appreciation Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. This support has had measurable impact within **one** geographic area of service to help reach and surpass the mission-delivery goals of the area.



Honor Pin

The Honor Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience; this support has had measurable impact on **two or more** geographic areas of service to reach and surpass the mission-delivery goals of the council.



Thanks Badge

The Thanks Badge honors an individual whose ongoing commitment, leadership, and service have had an exceptional, measurable impact on meeting the mission-delivery goals and priorities of the entire council or the entire Girl Scout Movement.



Thanks Badge II

The Thanks Badge II honors a previous Thanks Badge award recipient who has continued to provide exemplary service in a leadership role which resulted in a measurable impact benefiting the entire Girl Scout Movement.



Membership Numeral Guard

The numerals show the total number of years (not necessarily continuous or consecutive) of registered membership, both as a girl and an adult, in any Girl Scout/Girl Guide organization. Numeral Guards are attached to the Official Girl Scout Membership Pins (regular or miniature size), and are placed to the left of the pin on clothing or on the insignia tab.

Nomination Process

- ✓ Anyone with knowledge of a nominee's efforts may complete the nomination.
- ✓ All nominees must be a current, active member with an eligible background check.

GSUSA Award	Criteria	Endorsements
Volunteer of Excellence Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance beyond the expectations of the position and has supported council's mission-delivery goals in one or more of the following functional areas: membership development/ community cultivation, volunteer relations and support, program, leadership and governance, fund development, and council support service (such as IT, customer service, merchandising, marketing, or communications). • The candidate actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behavior. 	<p>1 endorsement form completed by someone other than the nominator.</p> <p>+1 additional signature</p>
Appreciation Pin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service performed by the nominee is above and beyond the expectations of the position held. • Service made an impact on <u>one</u> geographic area / Service Unit 	<p>1 endorsement form completed by someone other than the nominator.</p> <p>+2 additional signatures</p>
Honor Pin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service performed by the nominee is above and beyond the expectations for the position held. • Service made an impact on <u>two or more</u> geographic areas / Service Units. 	<p>1 endorsement form completed by someone other than the nominator.</p> <p>+3 additional signatures</p>
Thanks Badge I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The outstanding service performed by the nominee resulted in outcomes that benefited the total council or entire Girl Scout organization. • Service is so significantly above and beyond the call of duty that no other award would be appropriate. 	<p>2 endorsement forms completed by someone other than the nominator.</p> <p>+1 additional signature per form</p>
Thanks Badge II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previously received the Thanks Badge I • The outstanding service performed by the nominee resulted in outcomes that benefited the total council or entire Girl Scout organization. • Service is so significantly above and beyond the call of duty that no other award would be appropriate. 	<p>2 endorsement forms completed by someone other than the nominator.</p> <p>+2 additional signatures per form</p>

Tips for Writing Nominations:

It's about the Girl Scouts! The focus of all of the Volunteer Awards is the positive impact that adults have had on Girl Scouts and the Girl Scout Movement. Writing a strong nomination and endorsement is an important step to ensure that our adults are celebrated for the passion and commitment they show for Girl Scouting. This chart shows how a statement can become a strong nomination statement.

Initial Statement	Thoughtfully Consider	Strong Nomination Statement
She has been a leader for a long time.	How many years? Through which levels?	For 11 years, she has led a large troop from Daisies persevering through the difficult middle school years to their current level of Seniors.
They are a great leader.	What kind of leadership qualities do they bring? What makes them stand out?	They continually bring leadership opportunities to the Girl Scouts. They encourages a girl-led approach by allowing the Girl Scouts to vote on and implement their activities.
She always goes above and beyond.	Be specific! Tell a story about the great benefits those around her receive due to her efforts.	Her troop voted to start the aMuse Journey. Because she has never considered herself creative when it came to art, she recruited parents, artists, and actors as resources for her girls to draw from. As a result, the girls had a great time meeting community experts and discovering parent talent in their own troop! They now have several opportunities for Take Action projects because of these connections.
He's a dad who helps whenever needed.	Again, be specific! Tell a story about the support given to the Girl Scouts and how they benefited.	Dad to the rescue during a troop camp-out when the troops discovered a bee's nest in the camp! He kept both the girls and leaders calm and assisted in moving gear while educating the girls about the importance of our pollinators. The girls felt safe and in control, thanks to the good guidance from an awesome Girl Scout dad!

Volunteer Awards Frequently Asked Questions

How often are adult recognitions presented?

Volunteer Awards and recognition are presented each year at an annual Volunteer Appreciation event. Service units may present local awards at any time and are encouraged to recognize volunteers informally throughout the year.

Who can nominate?

Nominations for awards can be made by any person who has knowledge of the service performed. This includes parents, community members, volunteers, and staff. Please look at the descriptions of each type of award above for more information on who can nominate for specific awards!

Who collects the additional endorsement signatures?

The additional endorsement signatures are collected by the nominator once the endorsement form is returned to them.

When do I need to have the nomination paperwork turned in, and who gets it?

All Nomination and Endorsement forms are to be submitted via email to customercare@gshawaii.org by March 31st. Please reach out to your island coordinator or Customer Care with any questions.

Can staff be nominated for an award?

No. These awards are for volunteer members only.

What if I nominate someone for an award, and they're not recognized?

We're so sorry that your nominated adult didn't receive the award they were nominated for! Our goal is to honor as many volunteers as possible during our Volunteer Appreciation events!

Often when adults are nominated but don't earn awards, it is due to a lack of endorsements for the award they've been nominated for, or unclear information on the nomination form that we can't resolve before the deadline. You can help prevent this by reading the nomination criteria closely, making sure the proper number of endorsements are submitted, and letting us know when you have questions during the nomination process. We're happy to walk you through it! We know all our adults deserve recognition for how hard they work to support girl ambition! If we missed someone last year--let us know! We'll see what we can do to make sure they get the recognition they've earned!

Volunteer Award Nomination Criteria

Submit completed nominations by March 31st
customercare@gshawaii.org



Basic Requirements for All Adult Awards

- ✓ The candidate is an active, registered volunteer member of Girl Scouts of Hawai'i.
- ✓ The candidate must have an eligible background check completed.
- ✓ The candidate's service goes above and beyond expectations of the position held and contributes to the Girl Scout Mission, Law and Promise.
- ✓ The candidate actively recognizes, understands and practices the values of inclusive behavior.

Nomination for:

Volunteer of Excellence Pin

Appreciation Pin

Honor Pin

Thanks Badge I

Thanks Badge II

Nomination Procedure

Decide the appropriate award for service. Criteria for each award can be found starting on pages 3-4 of this guide.

Complete the **Volunteer Award Nomination Form** and check the box for the appropriate award at the top. The nomination must include specific information that demonstrates the nominee's service, scope, and impact. It must be specific to the award being nominated.

Complete required number of **Volunteer Award Endorsement Form(s)**. Endorsements must be completed by someone other than the nominator. They should be able to convey information and their support clearly and concisely in written word, offering concrete examples of the nominee's outstanding service.

Collect required amount of signatures for selected award.

The completed nomination (nomination form, endorsement form and required signatures) is submitted to Council by the stated deadline for final review.

The nomination form is reviewed by GSH Membership and Program representatives. Council reviews the merit of the nominee submission for final approval. Approved candidates will be notified that they will be recognized at the Volunteer Appreciation event. If the nominee is not to be recognized, the nominating individual will be notified of the decision.

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE March 31st to CustomerCare | 808.595.8400 | customercare@gshawaii.org

Volunteer Award Nomination Form



*Submit Nominations by March 31st
customercare@gshawaii.org*

Nomination for Volunteer of Excellence Pin Appreciation Pin Honor Pin
 Thanks Badge I Thanks Badge II

Name of Nominee _____

Nominee's Current Girl Scout Volunteer Role(s) _____

Nominated by _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Where has the service performed by the nominee impacted Girl Scouting? (Check one)

troop level one service unit two or more service units council national

Give specific examples of how the service is beyond the expectations for the position. List impact and results of this person's actions.

What volunteer positions has the nominee held?

What awards has the nominee previously received?

Signature of Nominator _____

Date _____

Volunteer Award Endorsement Form

Return Completed Endorsement Form to Nominator



Nomination for: Volunteer of Excellence Pin Appreciation Pin Honor Pin
 Thanks Badge I Thanks Badge II

Name of Nominee _____

Current GS Position(s) _____

Endorsement (*Nominator cannot submit an endorsement form*)

Endorsement submitted by _____

Phone _____ Email _____

In what capacity have you worked with the nominee? (events, membership, outside of Girl Scouts, etc.)

How is the nominee's service above and beyond the expectations of the position? Please indicate the nominee's position. *Give specific examples of how the nominee's service is above and beyond the expectations of the position.*

List geographical area(s) or Service Unit(s) in which nominee has made an impact.

Additional comments or information, including nominee's other community roles:

Signature of Endorser _____ Date _____

FOR NOMINATOR USE ONLY: (Refer to page 4 for additional endorsement signature criteria)

Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Council has reviewed this application and confirms that requirements have been met.

GSH Representative Name: _____ Signature: _____