



Thanks Badge Recipients: Mary Widicus, Sharon Mehring, Angela Zuniga-Meyer, Linda Reinholtz

Volunteer Awards and Recognition

Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast (GSWISE) volunteers are the heartbeat and the core of our council. We could not serve the girls without you, and the untold hours of time that you give define our excellence as a council. We will never be able to say “thank you” enough, but awards and recognitions are just one way that we can pay tribute to our wonderful volunteers.

Acknowledgement of adult volunteers can happen in a number of ways, from an informal note of thanks to a more formal Girl Scout recognition. GSWISE promotes the use of the National Girl Scout (GSUSA) awards. National and council recognitions are often awarded in accordance with the sphere of influence in which the service was performed—direct service to girls, to service areas, to regions, or to the entire council. These recognitions are not given in any special order, but are determined by the recipient of the service. It is recommended that national awards are not given to the same individual in consecutive years; however, during this time, continue to informally thank great volunteers and provide formal recognition to those who have not been recognized recently.

Nomination deadline is Monday, February 2, 2016.

National and council awards are reviewed by volunteer task group(s) and are presented at the council’s annual meeting or service area celebrations. If you have any questions about adult awards, please contact the director of volunteer recruitment and development at swilliams@gswise.org, 414-443-3935. All candidates need to be registered members, have completed the appropriate training, and performed at a level exceeding expectations for the position.

Revised July 2015

Recognition	Who to Consider	Criteria	Nomination Procedures
<p>Volunteer of Excellence Award</p> 	<p>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 (GSLE) 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nominee is an active, registered adult Girl Scout. The nominee has successfully completed a term of service in all requirements for the position. The nominee has performed beyond expectations for the position to deliver the GSLE to girls using the National Program Portfolio. <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nominee's performance has been beyond the expectations of the position and has supported the 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. The nominee actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behavior. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Troop members, families, girls or other Girl Scout volunteers or members of related organizations need to submit nomination. One completed Letter of Endorsement is required. <p><i>Note: Volunteer of Excellence awards are reviewed and awarded within the service area. Nominations are submitted to the service area team or recognition committee – check with your service area for spring deadline dates. If you do not have a service team in your area you may submit your nomination to the council recognition committee. Drop off at any resource center.</i></p>
<p>Appreciation Pin</p> 	<p>The Appreciation Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE). This service, which has had measurable impact on one geographic area of service, helps the council reach and surpass its mission-delivery goals for that area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nominee is an active, registered adult Girl Scout. The service performed by the nominee is above and beyond the expectations for the position held, and made an impact on one geographic/service area within the council's jurisdiction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit completed nomination form explaining contribution of nominee. One completed Letter of Endorsement is required.
<p>Honor Pin</p> 	<p>The Honor Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE), which has had measurable impact on two or more geographic areas of service, allowing the council to reach and surpass its mission-delivery goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nominee is an active, registered adult Girl Scout. The service performed by the nominee is above and beyond the expectations for the position held and made an impact on two or more geographic/service areas within the council's jurisdiction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit completed nomination form explaining contribution of nominee and its significance to Girl Scouting. One completed Letter of Endorsement is required.

Recognition	Who to Consider	Criteria	Nomination Procedures
<p>Thanks Badge</p> 	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nominee is an active, registered adult Girl Scout. The outstanding service performed by the nominee resulted in outcomes that benefited the total council or the entire Girl Scout organization, and is so significantly above and beyond the call of duty that no other award would be appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit completed nomination form explaining contribution of nominee and its significance to Girl Scouting. One completed Letter of Endorsement is required.
<p>Thanks Badge II</p> 	<p>The Thanks Badge II honors a previous Thanks Badge recipient who has continued to provide exemplary service in a leadership role, resulting in a measurable impact that benefits the entire Girl Scout movement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nominee is an active, registered adult Girl Scout. The nominee has received the Thanks Badge for past accomplishments. The outstanding service performed by the nominee resulted in outcomes that benefited the total council or the entire Girl Scout organization, and is so significantly above and beyond the call of duty that no other award would be appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit completed nomination form explaining contribution of nominee and its significance to Girl Scouting. One completed Letter of Endorsement is required.
<p>Marion Chester Read Award</p>	<p>For volunteers who have received the Thanks Badge and are still showing additional support to the Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a registered Girl Scout adult. The nominee has demonstrated noteworthy volunteerism, modeled the Girl Scout spirit, and shared their skills and talents to advance the Girl Scout mission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit completed nomination form explaining contribution of nominee and its significance to Girl Scouting. One completed Letter of Endorsement is required.
<p>President's Award</p>	<p>The President's Award recognizes the efforts of a service-delivery team or committee whose exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience surpassed team goals and resulted in significant, measurable impact toward reaching the council's overall goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All team members are registered Girl Scouts. All team members have met requirements and expectations of the positions held. The team has significantly contributed to meeting one or more of the council's mission-delivery goals. The team reflects the diversity of the target audience or area it serves, in girl and adult membership, in all pathways. The team actively recognizes, understands, and practices the values of inclusive behavior. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit completed nomination with supporting documentation explaining contribution of service team or program delivery team, and its significance to Girl Scouting. Submit documentation of criteria to the director of volunteer recruitment and development by February 2, 2016.

To be sure nominations are appropriate and timely:

- Recruit a service area award and recognition chairperson or committee.
- Review the award criteria for the appropriate award(s).
- Review the recognitions previously received by the candidate with volunteer development staff or your membership manager.
- Ensure the candidate has not been previously recognized for the same body of work.
- Use nomination forms from the council website, gswise.org.
- Turn in submissions by the deadline date of **February 2, 2016** (Volunteer of Excellence awards are reviewed and awarded within the service area. Check with your service area for their spring deadline date).

How to write a Letter of Endorsement

The award and recognition committees use *Letters of Endorsement* along with the *Nomination Form* to determine if nominees have fulfilled the criteria necessary to receive the appropriate award. Therefore it is important that letters be specific and well thought out.

Letters of Endorsement should include:

- Name of nominee
- Title of recognition
- How the letter writer knows the nominee and for how long
- An explanation of how the nominee has met the level of service required to receive the award.
- **Examples** of the nominee's performance which explain how the service was beyond what others in the same position have done since receiving any previous awards.
- An explanation of how the nominee's contribution has benefited Girl Scouting.
- Any other comments or information that might be helpful.
- Name, phone, and email of person writing the letter for future contact.



Jacquie Gozdowiak, Marion Chester Read Award Recipient



Sheila Burris, Appreciation Pin Recipient

Membership Numerals and Years of Service Pins

Each year, GSWISE purchases membership numerals and years of service pins to recognize the service of our volunteers. If you have been a **registered adult member** of Girl Scouts for five or more years, you are eligible to receive a membership numeral and/or years of service pin. During the January and/or February service area meetings, volunteers will be asked to indicate which pin they are eligible for. The service area awards committee may want to include those volunteers receiving the pins at their special year end celebration along with any volunteer of excellence pins. The pins are available in five year intervals (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, etc.), so not everyone is eligible each year to receive a pin. You may also find a *Year Pin Request Form* on the council website or you may email the request to the director of volunteer recruitment and development at swilliams@gswise.org.



10 Membership Numerals

Represents years of membership in Girl Scouting as a registered girl and adult combined.



Years of Service Pin

Recognizes years of volunteer service given as a registered adult member only.

We encourage you to nominate fellow volunteers for their wonderful accomplishments; to join us in saying "thank you" at every opportunity to as many people as you can; and to give recognition early, often, and to more and more volunteers who translate the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to girls and young women across Southeastern Wisconsin. Thank you!