

Frequently Asked Questions about Volunteer Recognition

- **Why is it important to recognize volunteers for their service?**

Although the majority of our volunteers do not participate in Girl Scouting for the recognition that they receive, everyone likes to be told “Thank You” for the many hours they spend on behalf of girls in their community. Volunteer awards are a wonderful way to express this appreciation! Volunteers who feel appreciated are more likely to continue volunteering and have a greater sense of satisfaction in their role. Our recognition program provides opportunities for volunteers to be recognized by their peers, girls, and their families for a job well done.
- **Who is allowed to nominate an individual for an award?**

Anyone! Adults, girls, families, members of the community, staff, and members of the Community Leadership Team.
- **Who can be given an award?**

Any adult that meets the award criteria.
- **Can I nominate my best friend, my mother, or myself?**

Yes. Just make sure that those being nominated meet the award requirements.
- **Why do I need so much documentation?**

These awards reflect remarkable service and we want to make sure that the volunteers have met the award criteria. The more information we have, the easier it is for our Volunteer Recognition Committee and Board of Directors to approve the nominations.
- **Where can I find all the details about the service of the person that I want to nominate?**

Ask them! You can also ask family members, friends, and other GSU volunteers who know this person or who have been affected by their service in Girl Scouts.
- **Where can I find position descriptions so I know if the person that I want to nominate has gone “above and beyond” the expectations of the position?**

Contact your Volunteer Services Coordinator or check the GSU website.
- **Who are the members of the Girl Scouts of Utah Volunteer Recognition Committee?**

This committee consists of GSU volunteers, one member of the GSU Board of Directors, and one staff member.
- **How can I convince the Volunteer Recognition Committee that a particular volunteer really deserves an award?**

Be as detailed as you can in your description of their service and in the letters of endorsement (if required). All of our volunteers are incredible, so show us how this particular volunteer really stands out! It is helpful to have specific examples rather than a general statement about how great they are.
- **Everyone knows this volunteer and all that they do so why do I still need to submit all of this information?**

Girl Scouts of Utah has more than 3,000 volunteers and members of our Volunteer Recognition Committee and Board of Directors come from diverse backgrounds and experiences and may not be familiar with this volunteer. Please share details of this volunteer’s service with us!
- **How can someone be a volunteer for 10 to 15 years and not have received any or all of the awards?**

We are a volunteer-led organization so we only give awards to those that have been nominated. Sadly, the efforts of many volunteers go unnoticed because others are not willing to take a couple of minutes to submit a

nomination. But, the time is worth it! When you notice something great that a volunteer has done, take a minute right then to submit a nomination for an award.

- **Which award do most volunteers receive first?**
The Certificate of Appreciation and the Noteworthy New Leader Award are good choices to start.
- **I already have the Green Angel Award, but I'd like the Emerald Award, as well. Can I receive both?**
Unfortunately, no. The Emerald Award is a replacement award for the Green Angel, and the requirements are identical.
- **Are there awards for people who serve the entire GSUSA organization?**
Yes, contact GSUSA for more information at www.girlscouts.org.
- **Why is the award deadline in July?**
Our annual Recognition of Excellence event is now held in October in order to recognize the efforts of girls and adults throughout the entire membership year. Volunteer award nominations are due the end of July in order to give staff, the Volunteer Recognition Committee, and the Board of Directors time to review, approve, and order the appropriate awards in preparation for Recognition of Excellence.
- **What if a Community has an appreciation event in the spring? How do we get awards to present at that time?**
Community-level awards may be given out earlier if a Community has a planned appreciation event and submits a request to awards@gsutah.org. However, Council-level awards will only be given out at Recognition of Excellence in October.
- **Why didn't the Volunteer Recognition Committee approve the nomination I submitted?**
Often this is due to a nomination that is lacking necessary information or a volunteer that does not meet the stated criteria. Occasionally, it is due to a nomination for an award that does not fit the level of service given, in which case the Committee will recommend a different option. To prevent this from happening, please provide specific details about why the volunteer should receive this particular award and make sure that he/she meets the requirements of the award (e.g. registered member).
- **Sometimes the award a person receives is not the one for which they were nominated. Why does this happen?**
The documentation may not fit the criteria of the award. However, the Committee may recommend another award for this volunteer.
- **If I turn a nomination in after the deadline, what happens to it?**
It will be retained by staff until the next year and will be reviewed by the Volunteer Recognition Committee at that time.
- **Can staff also be recognized with these awards?**
Yes, staff can be given an award based on outstanding service to the Girl Scout Movement. However, these are less common than awards given to volunteers.
- **What is the correct placement for award pins on the adult uniform?**
You can see a picture of insignia placement at:
https://www.girlscouts.org/program/basics/for_volunteers/where_to_place/adult/.
- **If I have questions, where can I go for help?**
Please call the Volunteer Services Coordinator at 801-716-5111 or awards@gsutah.org. Your Community Recognition & Delegate Representative is also a great resource.