

GIRL SCOUTS FROM NEW JERSEY CELEBRATE CENTENNIAL OF THE GOLD AWARD ON CAPITOL HILL

Leaders in Washington, DC, Join 2016 Gold Award Recipients to Honor a Century of Girls and Women Making the World a Better Place

June 15, 2016

Yesterday was a historic and exciting day on Capitol Hill for Girl Scouts. Girls from Central & Southern NJ were given an opportunity to highlight their Gold Award projects and talk to leaders on Capitol Hill about important issues impacting the world at a celebration honoring the 100th anniversary of the highest award in Girl Scouts: The Gold Award. Throughout the country, Girl Scout troops and councils are “Celebrating 100 Years of Changing the World” through the Gold Award, recognizing a century of girls who have created meaningful, sustainable change in their communities and around the globe.

During the Capitol Hill celebration, more than 300 leaders from government, the military, and academia came together to recognize and honor the amazing girls and women who have earned the Gold Award over the past century. They were joined by Girl Scouts’ National CEO Anna Maria Chávez and National Board President, Kathy Hopinkah Hannan. Speakers included Brigadier General Diana Holland, commandant of cadets at the United States Military Academy, and Patricia McGuire, President of Trinity Washington University, which awards Gold Award recipients scholarships.

GSCSNJ was well-represented at the event, as five local Girl Scouts attended and spoke to various New Jersey leaders, including the offices of Senator Robert Menendez, Senator Cory Booker, Congressman Donald Norcross, Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, and many more! The Gold Sponsor for the event was Toyota Financial Services (TFS), whose financial literacy partnership with Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) has helped empower 26,000 underserved Girl Scouts across the country to become financially savvy leaders, and take on Gold Award projects that transform their communities and impact the world.

Girl Scouts from Central & Southern NJ, Sarah Golobish of Princeton, Angela Ebbert of Glendora, Nerys Muller of Vineland, Rhea Kanwar of Edison, and Ruhi Kanwar of Edison attended and had the opportunity to share their Gold Award projects and related impact with leadership. Sarah and Rhea spoke about the importance of STEM for the underprivileged and underrepresented, Angela shared her project’s goals, which focused on the physical health of the elderly, Ruhi raised funds and created a brand new library in India, and Nerys highlighted the importance of safety on social media and shared that her book of the topic is soon to be published!

“We are very proud of all our girls who have earned their Gold Awards and taken their places alongside a century of amazing women,” said Ginny Marino, CEO of GSCSNJ. “We were thrilled to join our leaders in Congress to mark this important milestone and to witness some of our girls being recognized for the work they have done as they carry forward the tradition and the legacy of 100 years of our highest award.”

Known today as the Gold Award—and in the past as Golden Eaglet, First Class, and Curved Bar Award —Girl Scouts’ highest award has been earned by approximately 1 million Girl Scouts since 1916. “The Girl Scout Gold Award is a symbol of excellence and ingenuity and a testament to what girls can achieve—to their vision and fortitude, leadership and dedication,” said Ms. Chávez. “We are so proud to be joined by our leaders in Washington to celebrate the centennial of our highest award, and to reflect on a century of women and girls whose tenacity and courage have transformed our world forever and for the better.”

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About Girl Scouts of Central & Southern NJ, Inc.

GSCSNJ is the premier organization serving 19,000 girls in over nine counties. GSCSNJ shapes leaders for tomorrow by empowering girls to take on bold challenges, discover their own passions and strengths, act with character, and engage fully in fun, relevant experiences that encourage friendships and build life-long skills. For more information on how to join, volunteer, reconnect or donate to GSCSNJ, call (800) 582-7692 or visit www.gscsnj.org. You can also connect with GSCSNJ on [Facebook.com/GSCSNJ](https://www.facebook.com/GSCSNJ) or Twitter [@GSCSNJ](https://twitter.com/GSCSNJ).