

**Girl Scouts of the USA**  
**Applications Are Now Being Sought for**  
**2008 NATIONAL YOUNG WOMEN OF DISTINCTION**

GSUSA will recognize 10 Gold Award recipients selected as **2008 National Young Women of Distinction** during a special awards ceremony at the National Council Session in October. All transportation, hotel, entertainment and food expenses for awardees to Indianapolis, Indiana, will be paid by GSUSA.

**Eligibility**

Any Girl Scout who earned her Girl Scout Gold Award between October 1, 2006 and April 30, 2008, even if she is in college at the time of the event, is eligible to apply.

**To Apply**

Girls must submit applications directly through their Girl Scout council.

Applications can be found at [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org) and on the **OCN**. **Please circulate this information to all girls who are eligible to apply.**

There is no limit on the number of applicants a council may submit for consideration.

A completed packet must include:

- 3 copies of YWOD application form (one with original signature)
- 3 copies of Girl Scout Gold Award application
- 3 copies of Gold Award final report
- 3 copies of one letter of recommendation (from a source outside of Girl Scouting)

**Judges will evaluate Gold Award projects based on:**

- How the project reflects the passion a girl has for a cause and how she has used her leadership skills to take action.
- How the project has affected the world around her. (The impact of the project and the lasting results *locally, nationally or globally.*)
- How the project addresses the three Girl Scout keys to leadership:  
**Discover:** Understand their values and their world.  
**Connect:** Care about, inspire and team with others.  
**Take Action:** Act to make the world a better place.

**Application Deadline**

Girls must submit their applications to their councils by **May 15, 2008**. All application packets **must be received at GSUSA no later than July 7, 2008**. Applications arriving late will not be considered.

Mail completed applications to:

Girl Scouts of the USA  
2008 National Young Women of Distinction  
420 Fifth Avenue, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10018-2798

**No faxes or e-mails will be accepted.**

**Please Note**

- Application forms will not be returned; please make a photo copy for your records.
- **Send only what is requested.** Attachments (e.g., videos, additional references) will not be considered.
- If an applicant makes it to the final round, her council may be asked for additional information on the project.
- GSUSA cannot respond to individual queries, but will notify councils about the status of their applicants by **August 29, 2008**.
- For more information, e-mail [ywod@girlscouts.org](mailto:ywod@girlscouts.org) or Pauline Perry at [pperry@girlscouts.org](mailto:pperry@girlscouts.org)

**Girl Scout Gold Award History**

The first Girl Scout Gold Awards—Girl Scouting's highest honor—were conferred in 1980, having evolved from a long line of special Girl Scout awards going back as far as 1919. The Girl Scout Gold Award recognizes the work of Girl Scouts who demonstrate, through the implementation of a special project, the ability to set goals and make a plan to carry out those goals, while putting Girl Scout values into action.