



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**53 GIRL SCOUTS FROM EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS  
EARN HIGHEST AWARD IN GIRL SCOUTING**

**Gold Award Girl Scouts from Across Massachusetts Honored at  
State House Ceremony**

**BOSTON, MA (June 11, 2018)** – Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts (GSEMA) is proud to announce 53 girls from the council have earned the highest and most prestigious award in Girl Scouting: the Girl Scout Gold Award. They joined with Gold Award Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts at a ceremony on Friday, June 8, 2018, at the Massachusetts State House.

“These Gold Award Girl Scouts have earned the highest rank of excellence in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience by deliberately challenging themselves. They embraced independent thinking, tackled challenges head-on, and took action to make lasting change in their communities,” said Denise Burgess, Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts. “Now, more than ever, it is inspiring to see young women taking the lead and setting the direction.”

Since 1916, more than one million Girl Scouts have made meaningful, sustainable change in their communities and around the world through completing a Gold Award project.

Girls in grades 9-12 are eligible, and must spend a minimum of 80 hours (completed over one or two years) working on a project, completing seven steps. First, the aspirant must choose an issue to address. Then she investigates, recruits volunteers to help, creates a plan, and presents her plan to her local Girl Scout council. She takes action and, in doing so, develops her problem-solving, organization, and leadership skills. Girls achieve a true sense of accomplishment as they educate and inspire others, and initiate real change in their communities.

The Gold Award is an accomplishment that a Girl Scout is able to display on her resume, making her a more appealing candidate to colleges and employers. In addition, Gold Award Girls Scouts who join the armed services enter one rank higher than other recruits. The Gold Award demonstrates, beyond a doubt, that a Girl Scout is a G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)<sup>TM</sup>.

Each Gold Award Girl Scout receives a Gold Award pin, and special recognition from individuals and organizations including, Girl Scouts of the USA, Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts, the U.S. military, the Department of Health and Human Services, NASA, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National Park Service, the White House, the governor, and both Massachusetts senators.

### **About Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts**

**We're Girl Scouts Eastern Massachusetts (GSEMA)** We're 47,000 strong, with 32,000 girls and 15,000 volunteers in 178 communities in eastern Massachusetts who believe in the power of every G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)<sup>TM</sup> to change the world. Girl Scouts is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. GSEMA is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest Girl Scout council in the United States, building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. To volunteer, reconnect, donate, join, or learn more, visit [gsema.org](http://gsema.org).

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