



Award Recipients in Attendance at Girl Scout Gold Award Banquet on April 25.

May 16, 2007

OUTSTANDING YOUNG WOMEN HONORED

(Elgin) At its annual recognition banquet on April 25, 2007, at the Holiday Inn in Crystal Lake, Illinois, Girl Scouts - Sybaquay Council honored Girl Scouts earning the Girl Scout Gold Award, Girl Scouts receiving the Ten-year Award and graduating seniors.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award a girl can earn in Girl Scouting. It is the culmination of a Senior Girl Scout's experience as a Girl Scout. It encourages the girl to reflect on her accomplishments, goals, resources and obstacles, and gives her the responsibility of planning and implementing her own leadership and community service project. It gives the girl an opportunity to give back to the community all that she has learned in Girl Scouting.

Laura M. of Huntley; Amy C. and Ashley S. of Johnsburg; April H. of Woodstock; Teresa B. of Kirkland; and, Caryn D. and Abbey G. of Elgin were among the Girl Scout Gold Award recipients.

Laura's love of sewing and her desire to be a teacher were the grounds for her Girl Scout Gold Award Project. She contacted the "Two Rivers Head Start Agency," a head start preschool for low income families. She learned they provided students with

book bags and that they needed 50 bags for the year. Laura received donated fabric from family and purchased additional remnants from the store. While sewing the bags, she conducted a book drive with the hope of giving each child a book in addition to the bag. She exceeded her goal—she made 50 bags and each bag contained at least three preschool books.

Amy organized volunteers to assist her with the redecoration of the play room/living room at the Crystal Lake Home of the Sparrow House. She obtained donations from local businesses of paint and furniture. She designed a window seat, with storage space, and a new storage cabinet. Amy and her volunteers painted the room, made curtains and pillows, and built the window seat and cabinet. Through her hard work and organization, the women and their children have a cheerful place to relax and play.

Ashley wanted to teach young students about asthma. She researched the subject and developed a program which included interesting facts about asthma, fun educational games and she shared her personal experience with asthma. She adjusted the program for grades 1-6. Ashley visited classrooms on four separate days, delivering her “Asthma Awareness” message to 199 students.

April was motivated by the tsunami that struck in Indonesia. April knew the victims’ basic needs were being met, but feeling the children needed something more, she collected stuffed animals to send to them. April set up a Web site, advertised on the radio and in local papers, posted posters and placed donation boxes in various areas. Donations had to be picked up and sorted. Upon completion of her project April sent a total of 13,130 stuffed animals to the children of Indonesia.

Caryn conducted several interviews with local citizens and the school superintendent of Geneva, attended a coalition meeting for better funding for better schools and spent many hours doing research on how Illinois public school funding is set up. She created an oral presentation, complete with visuals, and presented it to a Kenyon Woods Middle School class. Caryn impressed upon the students they did not have to be

of voting age to make a difference in the funding of their school. She taught them that students can rally together to improve their schools because they have a voice and can make a difference if they were committed.

Abbey's project was inspired by the importance of communication between family members. She learned the men and women serving overseas didn't always have the opportunity to speak with their families. Abbey raised the community's awareness of her goal—to give the soldiers the opportunity to speak to their families, by providing 188 phone cards to be sent to the men and women serving overseas.

For her Girl Scout Gold Award project, Teresa collected materials to create attachable wheelchair bags for the residents of Northwoods Care Center. She also crocheted and sewed lap blankets for the residents. She worked with a Girl Scout troop who helped her cut material and sew the bags and blankets. Through her efforts she collected and made thirty five blankets and fifteen wheelchair bags.

Last year, approximately 5,500 girls throughout the U.S. earned their Girl Scout Gold Award. For many girls, the leadership skills, organizational skills, and sense of community and commitment that come from “going for the Gold” set the foundation for a lifetime of active citizenship. Girl Scouts - Sybaquay Council serves over 10,500 girls throughout McHenry County and in parts of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Lake and LaSalle counties.

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