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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Girl Scout Gold Awardees Honored at State Celebration**

*More than 80 High School Age Girl Scouts Attend Ceremony at Capitol*

**Austin, Texas, June 9**—Today more than 80 Girl Scouts from across Texas were recognized at the Capitol in Austin for completing the Girl Scout Gold Award during this past academic year. The Gold Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout, ages 14-18, may earn and is based on a community service project that meets a need within their community.

The impact of the Gold Award is felt in nearly every community. This year alone Girl Scout Gold Awardees have furnished rooms at Austin's Ronald McDonald House, identified previously unknown soldiers' graves at Angleton Cemetery in Houston and created learning cards for the blind in Bryan. Each project allows girls to connect with their community and further develop their leadership skills as they plan and implement a solution to their community's needs

As girls' leadership views change, the Gold Award process aids girls in achieving their leadership aspirations. Recent research from the Girl Scout Research Institute reveals that 59% of girls want to be a leader "who tries to change the world for the better." The Gold Award process encourages girls to take action and make the world a better place.

Locally 65 girls from the Girl Scouts of Central Texas made the world a better place by completing their Gold Award. All 65 girls were invited to today's celebration with approximately 30 of those girls being able to attend.

The awards were presented by Ms. Kathy Cloninger, Girl Scouts of the USA CEO and a native of Dallas. For more information on the Girl Scout Gold Award and State Celebration, visit [www.gscctx.org](http://www.gscctx.org) or call (800) 733-0011.

**About Girl Scouts of Central Texas:**

The Girl Scouts of Central Texas serves nearly 20,000 girls, ages 5-17 years, and more than 12,000 adult volunteers in 46 Central Texas counties. Headquartered in Austin, Girl Scouts of Central Texas has program centers in Brownwood, Bryan, Killeen, San Angelo, Temple and Waco. As the largest organization with a commitment to girls, Girl Scouting offers an array of fun, educational programs focusing on art, science, technology, engineering, math, the environment and life skills. We build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. For more information, visit [www.gscctx.org](http://www.gscctx.org).

**About Girl Scouts:**

Founded in 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls, with nearly 4 million girl and adult members worldwide. Girl Scouting is the leading authority on girls' healthy development, and builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. The organization serves girls from every corner of the United States and its territories. Girl Scouts of the USA also serves American girls and their classmates attending American or international schools in 90 countries. For more information on how to join, volunteer, reconnect or donate to Girl Scouts, call (800) GSUSA 4 U (800-478-7248) or visit [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org).

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