



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 9, 2018

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## **Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland Honors 2017-18 Gold Award Recipients**

**WICHITA, Kan.** — Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland honored three new Girl Scout Gold Award recipients during the Recognition Breakfast and Annual Meeting on April 7, two awardees from South Central and one from Northwest Kansas.

Earning the Gold Award is one of the most challenging, exciting and rewarding experiences a Girl Scout can have and one of the most prestigious recognitions she'll accomplish. The Girl Scout Gold Award stands as the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn, comparable to the Eagle Scout rank in Boy Scouts. The award recognizes girls in grades 9 through 12 who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through Take Action projects that have a sustainable impact in their communities and beyond. Girl Scout Gold Award recipients who join the armed forces enter one rank higher than other recruits, and they qualify for exclusive scholarships.

"Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award is truly a remarkable achievement, and the young women who earn this award exemplify leadership in all of its forms," said Liz Workman, chief executive officer of Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland. "They saw a need in their communities and around the world, and took action. Their extraordinary dedication, perseverance and leadership are making the world a better place."

Elizabeth Varns of Valley Center saw a need for girls to customize their clothes to fit their personal style and taste. Varns felt the fashion industry pushed certain styles that don't fit the needs of those wanting to dress more modestly. Her project developed a series of workshops teaching girls sewing skills to alter commercially produced clothes and empower them to feel confident in their everyday wear. She created a blog to coincide with the classes and serve as a resource with tutorials and support for any girl wishing to customize their wardrobe.

"This experience taught me that leadership skills are not restricted to age [...] Each workshop gave me the opportunity to do things better and strive a little harder to be more helpful, more understanding and more prepared," Varns said.

### **About Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland**

Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland serves more than 14,500 girls and adults in 80 Kansas counties through its operational headquarters in Wichita, Kan., and regional offices in Salina, Hays, Emporia and Garden City. Founded in 1912, Girl Scouts is the leading authority on girls' healthy development and is the pre-eminent leadership development organization for girls. Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

### **About the Girl Scout Gold Award**



Since 1916, Girl Scouts have been making meaningful, sustainable change in their communities and around the world. The Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn, acknowledges the power behind each recipient's dedication to not only empowering and bettering herself, but also to making the world a better place for others. These young women are courageous leaders and visionary change makers. *They are our future, and it looks bright!*

