

Writing Strong Award Nominations and Endorsements: Why it Matters

The kindest way to repay volunteers is by recognizing and thanking them publicly. GSCO relies on the nominations and endorsements of other volunteers, girls, parents, and staff to know who to honor each year. Writing a strong nomination or endorsement ensures the volunteers you want to be recognized can be!

Volunteer Recognition Awards: The focus of recognition awards is to evaluate the impact the volunteer has had on girls and the Girl Scout movement. A strong, detailed nomination, accompanied by endorsements, helps the Volunteer Recognition Award Committee to accurately evaluate and award adult volunteers for their efforts.

Volunteer Recognition Award Committee: This review committee is comprised of volunteers throughout the state of Colorado and it works to evaluate which volunteers deserve an award recognition in each category.

Nomination and Endorsement Submissions: Nominations and endorsements are encouraged from girls, parents, volunteers, and staff. Relatives, spouses, or partners can nominate volunteers, but those endorsing the nomination cannot be related or married to the volunteer. The deadline for volunteer recognition award nominations and endorsements is **March 31st**. Late submissions will not be accepted. Nominations and endorsements can be completed via the “nomination form” link on the council website.

Guidelines for Writing a Nomination/Endorsement: In writing a nomination or endorsement, please take the time to share the outstanding achievements and characteristics of the volunteer. Be detailed and give brief examples.

Considering some basic questions will help you write a stronger nomination.

- What have they done to earn the award?
- How are they (or why is their effort) outstanding?
- What made it unique or outstanding?
- How did it benefit the girls, troop, service unit or council?

Girl Scouts of Colorado has designed guidelines to help as you write your nomination or endorsement. Each nomination should support the guidelines by showing results-oriented, measurable, and real impact stories in support of your nominee. Please refer to the [Volunteer Recognitions Award Guidebook](#) award criteria information and specific examples of volunteer service that exemplifies each award. Your Volunteer Support Specialist is also available to answer questions or assist.

You can review examples on how to take a nomination from average to one that strongly highlights the volunteer’s accomplishments starting on the following page.

Examples of Adding Strong Details

The examples below show how to make a statement made in a nomination stronger with more details. The goal is to give the review committee a strong sense of what has been accomplished by the volunteer:

Original nomination statement: *"She has been an effective leader for a long time."*

To make this a stronger statement, consider adding these details:

- How many years?
- Through which program levels? (D, B, J, C, A, S)
- What made them effective? (i.e., communication style, how she interacts with girls, organizational skills, follow-through, etc.?)

Stronger nomination statement: *"Karen has been an effective leader for a long time. For 11 years, she has led a large troop that started as Daisies, persevered through the difficult middle school years, to their current level of Seniors. She has been an effective leader because she is always positive, remains flexible and open to hearing the girls' ideas, and consistently keeps everyone informed and up-to-date."*

Original nomination statement: *"She has a strong girl-led troop."*

To make this a stronger statement, consider adding these details:

- In what ways were the girls encouraged to take the lead at each level?
- What ideas did the girls have that they encouraged or supported?
- What are things they could have done as the leader that they let the girls do instead?
- What has the impact been on the girls by being encouraged to take the lead?

Stronger nomination statement: *"Lauren has a strong girl-led troop. She continually brings leadership opportunities to the girls and every step of the way, she has encouraged the girls to take the lead. She encourages a girl-led approach by allowing girls to vote on and implement their activities. As Daisies they were helping to select the badges they wanted to earn, as Brownies they helped plan field trips, as Juniors they chose and completed their Bronze Award, in middle school they began helping younger Girl Scouts earn their badges by hosting several Badge-in-a-Day events, and as high schoolers they were encouraged to think big and plan an international trip."*

Original nomination statement: *"She always goes above and beyond."*

To make this a stronger statement, consider adding these details:

- Tell a story about the great benefits those around them receive due to their efforts.
- What kind of example do they set by doing more than what is expected?
- How do the girls or the troop benefit from their approach?

Stronger nomination statement: *"Avery always goes above and beyond. She is always the first to arrive at troop activities to help set up and the last to leave to help clean up. Most impressively, she does not wait to be asked to volunteer to help. She is known for approaching leaders at the beginning of each troop activity to ask what she can do to help. Avery also volunteers as the troop treasurer, a job no one else really wanted to do. She has helped out so many times, they can't be counted and is always the first to raise her hand to lend a helping hand. We could not be as successful as we are without her help!"*

Original nomination statement: *"He is great at connecting people together."*

To make this a stronger statement, consider adding details like these:

- Share an example of how they have helped the girls connect with each other.
- Do they have a special way of connecting with parents?
- In what ways have people who would otherwise not be connected are because of this volunteer?
- What benefits have been gained because of this volunteer's people skills?

Stronger nomination statement: *"He is great connecting people together. For example, James' troop voted to pursue the aMuse Journey. Because he has never considered himself creatively inclined, he recruited troop parents, community artists, and actors as resources for the girls to learn from. As a result, the girls had a great time meeting community experts and discovering parent talent in their own troop! They have also had several opportunities for Take Action projects because of these connections, too!"*

Original nomination statement: *"She's is a grandma who helps whenever needed."*

To make this a stronger statement, consider adding details like these:

- Be specific! Share a story about the support given to the girls, and how the girls benefitted.

- How many ways have they helped?
- Is there a time when they helped the troop at the last minute or in a way that made it possible for the girls to do something they otherwise would not have been able to?

Stronger nomination statement: *"She is a grandma who helps out whenever needed. She can always be counted on to fill in if one of the leaders cannot make the meeting and she is also a reliable driver and overnight chaperone in our troop. One time, she came to the rescue during a troop camp-out when the troops discovered a nest of baby snakes in camp! She kept both the girls and leaders calm as she assisted in striking camp, all the while educating the girls about snakes and safety. The girls felt safe, and in control, thanks to good guidance!"*