

Writing Strong Award Nominations and Endorsements -- Why it Matters --

Volunteer Recognition Awards: The focus of adult recognition awards is the impact on girls and the Girl Scout movement. The Volunteer Recognition Award Committee, comprised of volunteers from throughout the state of Colorado, is serious about evaluating adult volunteers for the most prestigious awards a council may award to its adult members.

The committee relies on the completeness and accuracy of the nominations and endorsements.

In writing nominations and endorsements, please take the time to share the outstanding characteristics of the volunteer. Be detailed! What have they done to earn the award? Why is it (or how are they) outstanding? Share brief examples of what they have done, *how it has positively impacted girls*, and/or their troop, service unit, area, or GSCO.

Nomination/Endorsement Guidelines: GSUSA has designed the guidelines and your 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](#) on the [volunteer appreciation page](#) of our website for award criteria information and specific examples of volunteer service that exemplifies each award. You can also reach out to your Volunteer Support Specialist with questions or for assistance.

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

This chart shows how a statement, *with more details to support it*, can become a strong nomination/endorsement statement for the Volunteer Appreciation committee’s review:

Initial Statement	<i>Thoughtfully Consider:</i>	Strong Nomination Statement:
“She has been a leader for a long time.”	<i>How many years? Through which program levels? (D, B, J, C, A, S)</i>	“For 11 years, she has led a large troop from Daisies, persevering through the difficult middle school years, to their current level of Seniors.”
“She is a great leader.”	<i>What kind of leadership qualities does she bring? What makes her stand out?</i>	“She continually brings leadership opportunities to the girls. She encourages a girl-led approach by allowing girls to vote on and implement their activities.”
“She always goes above and beyond.”	<i>Be specific! Tell a story about the great benefits those around her receive due to her efforts.</i>	“Her troop voted to start the aMuse Journey. Because she has never considered herself a “creative soul” when it came to artistic endeavors, she recruited

		troop parents, artists, and actors as resources for her girls to draw from. As a result, the girls have had a great time meeting community experts and discovering parent talent in their own troop! They now have several opportunities for Take Action projects because of these connections.
“He’s a dad who helps whenever needed.”	<i>Be specific! Tell a story about the support given to the girls, and how the girls benefitted.</i>	“This volunteer came to the rescue during a troop camp-out when the troops discovered a nest of baby snakes in camp! He kept both the girls and leaders calm as he 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!”

Nomination Submission and Deadline

Volunteer Recognition Award nominations and endorsements of nominations 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. Nominations and endorsements are submitted through the same form.

For questions or assistance with nominations and endorsements, please contact Shannon Weaver, Adult Experience Manager, at Shannon.Weaver@gscolorado.org or 303.607.4897