

Adult Awards Service Unit Level

January 2010 SUMIT

Adult volunteer awards and recognitions: River Valleys values all of our volunteers and recognizes the contributions they make in developing girl leaders. We also recognize that there are individuals who provide service to Girl Scouting that is above and beyond the expectations of their volunteer position. GSUSA awards, created by our national organization and River Valleys' awards, created by our council are intended for volunteers such as these that provide exemplary service that goes above and beyond. Although the deadline for council level awards has passed; there is still time to recognize exemplary performance with a service unit level award. Service unit level awards are distributed at a local event established by each service unit.

Local recognition events: Each service unit is encouraged to hold an annual celebration/recognition event in the spring. At these events, everyone should receive a token of appreciation. For formal recognition, consider nominating individuals for a service unit level award (descriptions on backside) which are meant for distribution at a local service unit event.

Nominations for all service unit awards are accepted:

April local recognition events: Accepted from January 15 through March 15

May local recognition events: Accepted from January 15 through April 15

June local recognition events: Accepted from January 15 through May 15

Informal recognition is important as well: River Valleys' adult awards and recognition program formally recognizes exemplary service. Equally important is the informal recognition of efforts and contributions, on a local level, throughout the year. Consider honoring your first year leaders with a card, certificate, flowers or special gift. Service unit managers consider honoring your service unit team with a computer generated card, letter, or thank you note. Some other ideas: certificates, flowers, balloons, edible bouquets, special gift, a video tribute. You might even want to establish some "fun" awards within your service unit such as "Most Creative," "Best Use of Resources," etc.

Role of SUM in regards to volunteer awards: As service unit manager, you can: delegate the responsibility for nominating others for service unit level volunteer awards, assume the responsibility yourself and/or communicate awards and recognition information with leaders and encourage them to nominate their peers. We encourage you to take the lead and ensure that your service unit is properly recognizing exemplary service.

Accessing Service Unit adult award information: Adult award information including award requirements and nomination applications can be found on the River Valleys website at www.girlscoutsrv.org.

Questions: Can be addressed to the Volunteer Development Manager at 800-845-0787 or wendy.walton@girlscoutsrv.org

Service Unit Level adult awards

The Outstanding Leader Award: A GSUSA award that recognizes a troop leader or assistant leader whose performance in working with girls is so outstanding that it merits recognition by the service unit. The candidate must have completed required training. This pin is given to a volunteer only once. A nomination application and two endorsement letters from troop members or their families are required.

The Outstanding Volunteer Award: A GSUSA award that recognizes a volunteer in a position other than (or in addition to) leader whose service benefits the entire service unit in a way that is beyond expectations for the position held. Examples include but are not limited to: a recruiter who has retained or increased adult or girl membership, an event chair who has managed several successful events (especially with increased girl planning and involvement), or a person who has significantly enhanced Girl Scouting's image in the community. This pin is given to a volunteer only once. A nomination application and one endorsement letter is required.

Progressive Volunteer Award: A six stage GSUSA award that honors volunteers who continue to serve Girl Scouting in different volunteer roles/positions through the years. Requirements are as follows: the candidate is a registered Girl Scout and adheres to all policies and procedures of the Girl Scout organization, has completed appropriate orientation and training for the volunteer position in each category, and is providing service in the Girl Scout organization at the local (one or more geographic areas) or national level. Candidates must complete the first year of service and recommit to a second year. A nomination application and two letters of endorsement are required for all of the stages except for the first stage, which requires one endorsement letter.

S.T.A.R. (Short-term as Requested) Volunteer Award: This award is a way to recognize volunteers that have shared their time and talents with Girl Scouts by providing four or more occasions of service. Example: a registered parent that volunteers to help at four service unit events or a special interest volunteer that shared their talents and time on four or more occasions. Volunteers are recognized with a Volunteer Service Pin. The pin has three levels which are accumulative. A nomination application and two endorsement letters are required. One pin awarded per year.

Heart in Hand Award (Service Unit Level): A River Valleys' award that recognizes outstanding service (other than that of a leader, co-leader, or assistant leader), that has benefited a Girl Scout troop or service unit., This award may be given to a Girl Scout member, non-member, or a community organization that has given a significant amount of time and energy to Girl Scouts. This award should be presented locally. Recognition is a pin. A nomination application and two letters of endorsement are required.

Service Unit Award for Excellence Level I:

A River Valleys award that recognizes a service unit's accomplishments in moving toward River Valleys' goals and objectives the previous membership year. A certificate is presented to the service unit manager(s) at their local recognition event or some other service unit event. A nomination application, endorsement letter from the service unit and letter of endorsement from the service unit's membership specialist is required.

Years of Service under 20 years: A GSUSA award that recognizes an adult member for years of active volunteer service at five- year intervals up to 20 years of service. Years of Service pins are available in five-year intervals to recognize an adult member's years of active volunteer service. These may be purchased through the Girl Scout Shop and do not require verification or approval from the adult awards and recognition committee or River Valleys' staff.

Membership Numerals under 25 years: A GSUSA award that recognizes tenure in Girl Scouting. Numeral guards are available in five-year intervals to recognize total girl and adult membership years. Numeral guards under 25 years may be purchased through the Girl Scout store and do not require verification or approval from the adult awards and recognition committee or River Valleys' staff.