

2019-2020 GSMW Gold Award Girl Scouts

Kieran B., Laramie, WY collaborated with the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (University of Wyoming) to discover more about the declining native bee populations by collecting bee samples for identification and data analysis. She assisted in species identification as well as tested a new bee trap that had not been used in her area. One of the samples she collected included a species of bee that had not been observed in that area before; this finding will continue to be a topic of study for the University of Wyoming. Kieran also launched a community educational campaign teaching people about how to protect pollinators, specifically Mason bees and other solitary pollinators. She also led a workshop where participants learned about bees and built bee hotels for their backyard to serve as ideal habitats for pollinators.

Aishwarya M., Douglas, WY was adopted from an orphanage in India as a young girl. Her first hand experiences of being adopted from India, learning a new language and culture, prompted her to write and publish an ABC book for children being adopted from India to use with their new families to learn more English words and her book includes pictures of herself from the time she was adopted to make the book more relatable. Aishwarya's book will be distributed to families through the Children's House International adoption agency.

Gracen M. of Wheatland, WY partnered with the Wyoming State Historical Society for her project "Two Minutes with a Local" to help preserve the history of buildings in her community. Gracen identified 10 historic buildings in her community, researched the history of each building and then connected with people who could provide more information about the buildings. She made a 2 minute video for each building that included a building tour, pictures and any relevant information she learned as well as an interview with the individual she connected with. She then created QR codes that are linked to each video that is uploaded to You Tube. Each QR code is mounted on a plaque at its respective building in a visible location allowing anyone to scan the QR code with their phone and watch the video about that specific building.

Amiya W., Great Falls, MT collaborated with the Fresenius Kidney Care Great Falls Dialysis clinic addressing the needs of dialysis patients and their families while receiving treatment. She did this by creating a Welcome Bag for patients with items that they could use each time they went for dialysis. The bags include kidney friendly recipes, resources for extra support, and items such as a water bottle and a puzzle book. Amiya also started a reading library for patients to use and addressed the needs of those waiting for their family member receiving treatment by improving the waiting room with activities and a white board for messages.

Joanna Z., Lewistown, MT collaborated with her school counselor and health department to expand the mental health curriculum for all of the health classes taught at her high school. The expanded and more current curriculum now includes videos Joanna made teaching specific topics as well a mental health quiz for students to take after they have completed the unit.

Juana H., Cheyenne, WY partnered with the Cheyenne Animal Shelter after identifying a need for a microscope to help identify diseases that tend to affect stray and shelter animals. Juana planned and hosted a dog show to spread the word to her community why the microscope would beneficial. In the end, a microscope was donated to the animal shelter so Juana used the funds to purchase a camera for the microscope so that the veterinarian could take pictures of what was being observed and use the pictures as a teaching tool.

Reba W., Hobson, MT used her passion for reading and the importance of literacy to tackle the issue that many in rural areas have limited access to a library. Reba notes that surrounding communities have to travel up to 40 miles to the nearest library. She partnered with the library in her community to come up with a solution of establishing several self-sustaining libraries in smaller communities in the surrounding area. In each community, she found businesses willing to sponsor a library on their premises and also researched the demographics of the communities so that the libraries were stocked with books that were relevant.

Emme H., Bozeman, MT loved going to Girl Scout Day camp when she was younger and Emme wanted to make sure that more young girls had access to the experiences she had. Emme set to work organizing the Bozeman Day Camp equipment as well as creating a Day Camp Director's Manual to make planning and execution of the Day Camp easier in the future. She also cleaned up trails in the area the Day Camp is held so future campers as well as the public have better access to the area.