



2020 – 2021 GMSW Gold Award Girl Scouts

Elaina P. of Helena, MT spent time volunteering with her high school food pantry and then was selected to be on the Governor and First Lady Youth Leadership Council to fight childhood hunger, her time involved with these groups led her to her Gold Award project to raise awareness of food insecurity in her community. Prior to COVID-19, Elaina hosted two Hunger Dinners, one at the Montana State Capitol and the other at her high school. A Hunger Dinner is a dinner that serves a meal to the attendees based upon income level that is assigned as they arrive; the meal served to each income level represents what that income level can afford. Each dinner had a guest speaker who spoke about her experience about being food insecure and the dinners also raised awareness about what income levels can afford to eat as well as nutritional differences. Elaina also launched an educational campaign at local grocery stores about the high school food pantry and built a Blessing Boxes in her community where people can stock them with nonperishable food that can be used by those in need.

Rebekah S. from Casper, WY on earning her Girl Scout Gold Award! Her project addressed the issue of period poverty and stigma at her school and in her community and to do this Rebekah partnered with the national organization PERIOD to establish a PERIOD chapter in her high school. The PERIOD chapter created a safe space for students to collaborate and advocate for change for themselves and others as well as continue the work Rebekah has started. The chapter hosted workshops with educators on how to address period poverty in the classroom which has opened up conversations and they also organized period product drives to increase access to period products for students. Rebekah also worked to educate her community about period poverty and stigma through workshops and social media content. Her project has already made a measurable impact by more than tripling the number of chapter members and period advocates and the social media following continues to grow increasing the presence in the community and beyond.

Hailie B. of Miles City, MT earned her Girl Scout Gold Award for her project Updating R.O.C.K.S. Technology. Hailie partnered with the R.O.C.K.S. after school program in her community to provide updated technology for students to use for their homework as well as for online learning and study tools. Hailie purchased 13 laptops using Fall and Cookie Program proceeds and then loaded programs and applications that the students would need to use and she also made sure that the R.O.C.K.S. staff were trained on how to use the new technology and that they have a plan to maintain the new technology.

Brianna H. of Douglas, WY partnered with the Hope Center of Converse County to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award. She worked to get a RedRover grant to design and install an outdoor pet area so that domestic violence victims would be able to bring their pets when seeking shelter at the facility. Pets can provide emotional support during a very difficult time and 40 % of victims do not leave their abuser because of a pet. Brianna's project has already made an impact and Amy, her Project Advisor from Hope Center, spoke to Brianna's determination and perseverance throughout her project. Brianna continues to volunteer her time at the facility and spreading the word about her project.

Railyn D. of Missoula, MT is passionate about archery but recognized a need to create a safe space for people to learn more about archery. Railyn partnered with a local archery expert and hosted a community archery workshop for people to learn the basics of the sport as well as raise awareness for the need for a practice space in her community. She also created a website with information for beginners including where to find equipment and classes as well as basic technique instructions. She promoted her website with a QR code on a pamphlet that she distributed in her community.

Madison S. of Douglas, WY addressed the need for handicap accessible picnic table on her communities' river side trail. After seeking approval from the city council, she built the convertible picnic table and led a team to prepare the site and install it. Madison also installed a sign about Leave No Trace principals to educate trail users to help address the issue of littering along the trail.

Delani K. of Hobson, MT partnered with her town council to build a shelter over a bench in the community park. She recognized this specific need while working as a lifeguard at the community pool and she noted that parents watching their children did not have protection from the weather. Delani used her woodworking skills to use but also learned that she has a voice in her community as well how to lead a team through civic engagement.