

THE ORANGE COUNTY BETA REGISTER

Scouts earn top award for accomplishments

[Submitted by Gail Ellis-Olds](#)

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Eleven outstanding Yorba Linda Girl Scouts (ages 14-18) have earned the elite Girl Scout Gold Award, a nationally recognized symbol of exceptional accomplishment in leadership, community service, career planning and personal development.

"Earning the award reflects an extraordinary degree of leadership and citizenship skills," says Nancy Nygren, CEO of the Girl Scout Council of Orange County. "It calls upon all the skills, confidence and values the girls have learned as Girl Scouts."

Each Gold Award candidate has to design and complete a community service project that addresses important community issues or problems. Before candidates can even begin their final project, which requires a minimum of 65 hours of intensive community service work, they must first complete 40 hours in career exploration and 40 hours in leadership and special interest activities.

Because of the rigors involved in earning the award, it is not surprising that across the entire nation, only 10 percent of eligible Girl Scouts are able to complete the requirements. However, in each of the 29 years since the inception of the award, Girl Scouts in Orange County have exceeded the national average. In 2008, 10 percent of eligible local Girl Scouts earned the award.

2008 Yorba Linda Girl Scout Gold Award recipients are:

- Lauren Bartelli, Yorba Linda Girl Scout Troop 1334, taught dance classes to 20-30 members of the F & Girls Club of Brea, Placentia and Yorba Linda
- Sara Brisbin, Yorba Linda Girl Scout Troop 1334, created entertaining and educational puppet show for special needs students at Wagner Elementary.
- Rachel S. Caballero, Yorba Linda Girl Scout Troop 1334, improved and refurbished a large family meeting room for New Alternatives Inc.
- Lauren Elizabeth Crumly, Yorba Linda Girl Scout Troop 1334, raised a service dog for Canine Support Teams to help a person with a disability other than blindness.
- Baylee Ewing, former member of Yorba Linda Girl Scout Troop 824, made and filled two bookshelves with books for underprivileged children.
- Genevieve Herbert, Yorba Linda Girl Scout Troop 1138, provided needed goods and services to the

House of Hope, a shelter for women and their children.

- Ramanda Lazaris, Yorba Linda Girl Scout Troop 1334, created a reading center for New Alternative: facility where foster children go for supervised visits with their birth parents.

- Megan Lee, Yorba Linda Girl Scout Troop 1334, raised, trained and socialized a dog to provide serv to people with disabilities other than blindness.

- Ariel Lenard, former member of Yorba Linda Girl Scout Troop 330, replaced 10 badly-weathered and chewed kennel doors for the Orange County Animal Shelter.

- Brianna Moffitt, former member of Yorba Linda Girl Scout Troop 330, refurbished the office and lobb Phantom Projects, a non-profit organization that presents information about drugs and alcohol, racism pregnancy, self-image, and violence through plays that cater to teen audiences

- Katie Russo, Yorba Linda Girl Scout Troop 1138, collected more than 250 non-perishable foods, hygiene items and baby supplies for the women and children at House of Hope shelter

Gail Ellis-Olds is communication director with the Girl Scout Council of Orange County.

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