

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Bryce Benzine
Marketing and Communications Manager
bbenzine@gsle.org
225-715-0333

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Girl Scouts Louisiana East Announces 2023 Gold Award Earners

Gonzales, La. (April 11, 2023) – Girl Scouts Louisiana East (GSLE) is proud to announce the five members of the 2023 Girl Scout Gold Award class, who made a sustainable impact addressing causes they care about in southeast Louisiana communities. This year's earners are Ariana Blagrove from Ursuline Academy; Aimee Guillory from Academy of Our Lady; Christina Jackson from Northshore High School; Calcea Johnson from St. Mary's Academy; and Kamryn Rouse from Mandeville High School.

"We are proud of these five young ladies for their accomplishments in earning their Gold Award," said Rebecca Pennington, CEO of Girl Scouts Louisiana East. "Girl Scout Gold Award earners become innovative problem-solvers, empathetic leaders, confident public speakers, and focused project managers. We are so proud of these Girl Scouts and can't wait to see all they accomplish in their futures."

Ariana Blagrove's Elementary School Library Book Drive collected and delivered over 800 books to Brock Elementary School. Books included educational tools and workbooks. Blagrove's goal with this project is to increase the education and learning for elementary school students. A senior at Ursuline Academy in New Orleans, Ariana is completing her 13th year as a Girl Scout. She will be attending Chico State University in the fall, where she has received a golf scholarship and will be majoring in Business Management.

Aimee Guillory has hope in bringing more women into the STEM field. Her project, titled "Engineering for a Hopeful Future," took inspiration from her childhood where she witnessed few women in STEM fields. Guillory hopes to be the voice for young girls she wished she had when she was younger. A senior at the Academy of Our Lady in Marrero, Guillory has been involved with Girl Scouts since Kindergarten. She will be attending Louisiana State University in the fall to major in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Robotics.

Christina Jackson noticed overall standardized test scores were significantly lower than they should be. Her project, titled "The Science of Cooking," aimed to combine recipes and science experiments to better explain science through cooking. Her hope is that science will be easily understood through this method, leading to increased test scores. A senior at Northshore High School in Slidell, Jackson will attend Iowa State University, majoring in Culinary Food Science. Following college, she will attend culinary school to become a pastry chef.

Calcea Johnson noticed she did not have a comprehensive understanding of why voting matters as a U.S. citizen; thus, this discovery became the impetus for her project titled Empowering Young Black Ladies through Voter Education. This project explained the major political parties, why voting is important, and how voting amplifies one's voice. Johnson also created a QR code that links to the voter registration system. Her goal for this project is for it to be shared to schools region wide. In addition, Johnson and her classmate Ne'Kiya Jackson believe they have found new proof for the Pythagorean Theorem that uses trigonometry without resorting to circular logic. Johnson will be attending college in the fall majoring in environmental engineering.

Kamryn Rouse wanted to help other people take care of their pet even when they do not have the money or time. Her project, Huntley's Pet Pantry, hopes to mitigate the issues pet owners experienced during the pandemic by providing a safe place for assistance when owners experience hard times. As a Girl Scout, Rouse says she has become a mature young woman, and she has become more of a leader. She is a sophomore at Mandeville High School and intends to pursue a degree in Art or Video Design and Animation at a four-year college in the future.

Girl Scouts Louisiana East will honor the 2023 Girl Scout Gold Award class on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at the Pavilion of the Two Sisters in New Orleans City Park. The event is sponsored by Argent Financial Group.

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Girl Scouts Louisiana East

Girl Scouts Louisiana East (GSLE) is the leading organization for leadership development of girls, grades K to 12, in 23 parishes of southeast Louisiana. Chartered by Girl Scouts of the USA, GSLE serves over 10,200 girls, with 3,400 adult members. Girl Scouts offers every girl a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success. To volunteer, reconnect, donate, or join, visit www.gsle.org.