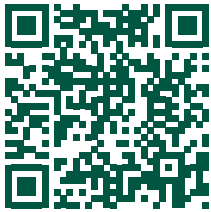




Scan the QR code to watch Jaden talk about her Gold Award project:



From Curiosity to Career: Jaden's Gold Award

For Jaden Quinn, a recent high school graduate and recipient of the prestigious GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship, Girl Scouts has been a guiding force since she was just four years old. Her journey, spanning over a decade, has been filled with extraordinary experiences. "I've been able to do so many things through Girl Scouts that I didn't think I would ever be able to do otherwise," Jaden shares, recounting trips to New York, London, and Paris with her troop.

Jaden's Gold Award project, "Road Map to Readiness," addressed a critical issue: her peers' lack of college and career preparation. Through workshops and fairs, she distributed vital information, helping them confidently navigate their futures.

The most rewarding part for Jaden was "being able to see people in real time, figure out what they wanted to do and how they could do it." She realized they knew they were "capable of doing whatever they want to do."

Jaden credits her mom and Girl Scout leaders as her unwavering supporters, helping her stay focused even when she changed her project. Through the Gold Award process, Jaden discovered a new depth of ambition. "I realized I can actually do this," she affirmed. Earning the Gold Award Scholarship was a powerful validation. "It kind of represents all that I've put into Girl Scouts," she reflects.

Jaden's story is a testament to the transformative power of Girl Scouts—a journey that nurtures leaders, fosters ambition, and helps girls discover their limitless potential.

The Hathaway Family Foundation's Investment in Mental Wellness

We're thrilled to share the incredible impact of The Hathaway Family Foundation's investment in the courage and confidence of Girl Scouts across our council. Thanks to their generous grant, girls are learning to cultivate and prioritize their mental health and wellness, building a stronger foundation for their future.

Through this partnership, troop leaders receive guides and custom patches for girls participating in the Girl Scouts Mental Health and Wellness Patch Program. Through engaging activities, girls explore their emotions, learn to advocate for themselves, and develop essential coping mechanisms for life's challenges. These crucial skills are equipping them to build resilience and show their incredible strength.

As one Girl Scout bravely shared, "I don't have to pretend to be happy all the time and it's ok." Another camper discovered the power of nature, noting, "Being outside makes my body feel better than being on a screen."

We've also heard wonderful feedback from troops working on their Finding My Voice patches. A girl from that troop expressed how impactful the program was: "Knowing the words to express how I'm feeling helps me feel more confident."

A Girl Scout leader summarized the program's broader impact: "The patch programs give us the framework to help our girls explore their emotions and understand what mental health is in a safe context. Each of them has different preferences and made different choices regarding how they can manage their thoughts and feelings. The activities helped them explore themselves without fear of needing to have the same answers as someone else."

This spring, we celebrated 110 girls across six troops in Greenville County who earned their mental wellness patches. And the positive ripple effect continues! This summer, campers at Camp WaBak also had the opportunity to earn these transformative patches, thanks to The Hathaway Family Foundation's support.

Their profound "gift of confidence" ensures this program will continue to be available through 2026, fostering a generation of confident, mentally resilient leaders.



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