



Press Release

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For Immediate Release
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Pennsbury Students Receive Girl Scouts Silver Awards

(Fairless Hills, PA) – Congratulations to the six students who recently earned the Girl Scouts Silver Award. The Silver Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout Cadette (6th-8th grade) can earn and requires a minimum of 50 hours to complete. Earning one of the Girl Scouts' highest awards challenges girls to be their best and develop, plan, and implement a Take Action project.

Akshara Anirudh, a ninth-grader at Pennsbury High School and a member of Troop 21574, earned the Silver Award by completing a project to support recycling in her community. Akshara believes it is essential for residents of her community to know the importance of the three R's - Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Akshara [created a website](#) that includes a detailed description of what each R stands for, and pictures and ideas of ways to complete each one. To promote her website to children in her community, Akshara hosted an Earth Day event. Akshara taught the children the three R's and showed them how to make no-sew tote bags by reusing old t-shirts. Akshara hopes that her project helps her community reduce, reuse, and recycle to benefit the environment.

Sarah Awadalla is a ninth-grader at Pennsbury High School and a member of Troop 21570. She earned the Silver Award by completing a project focused on improving access to feminine hygiene products for girls at her middle school. Sarah designed and sewed fabric zipper bags that she filled with feminine care products. Each bag included a patch stamped with the quote "Girls With Dreams Become Women With Vision." Sarah designed the stamp herself and made an

iron-on transfer to create the patch that was sewn into the lining of the bag. Sarah gave these bags to the nurse at Pennwood Middle School to hand out to girls who need them. Sarah also created a YouTube video to teach others how to create their own zipper bags.

Kathryn Carlson, a ninth-grader at Pennsbury High School and a member of Troop 21570, earned the Silver Award by completing a project benefiting Embrella. Embrella is a non-profit organization that serves foster, adoptive, and kinship parents in communities throughout New Jersey. Katy assembled duffle bags for children aged 10-18 years old who were placed in foster care due to abuse or neglect, and who must leave their homes for their own personal safety. Typically, children are only given a couple of minutes to grab their belongings before being moved to a safe place, and their belongings are quickly tossed into trash bags. Katy's bags are filled with everyday items that children need, such as hygiene products and blankets. The bags also include a book, pens, pencils, and notebooks. One of Katy's goals was to help children have a sense of ownership over their own items.

Abigail Greenberg, a ninth-grader at Pennsbury High School and a member of Troop 21570, earned the Silver Award by completing a project benefitting Congregation Beth El Of Yardley. Abigail educated Beth El about the tradition of wearing a tallis (a Jewish prayer shawl) for both men and women. Abigail ran several workshops for both adults and students over several weeks where participants could design their own prayer shawls, and learn how to tie the traditional knotted fringes known as tzitzit. Abigail also [created a video](#) for Beth El's website that provides step-by-step instructions on how to tie tzitzit. Additionally, Abigail gave an educational sermon at a Shabbat service. During the service, Abigail provided her own hand-made prayer cards and three tallises to be dedicated for future use by members of the Beth El community.

Mairead Menarde is a ninth-grader at Villa Joseph Marie High School who attended Pennsbury during her eighth grade year. She is a member of Troop 21574 and earned the Silver Award by completing a project benefiting the Nature Trail in Lower Makefield Township. Maggie organized and led an Earth Day Nature Trail Cleanup. While observing her community, Maggie noticed that nobody was taking care of the local nature trail and saw this as an opportunity to fix up the trail and educate younger Girl Scouts about nature preservation. Maggie met with a naturalist and developed steps to clean up the trail, including: building wooden bridges,

removing anything that was blocking the trail, cutting back invasive weeds and plants, relining the trail with wood, and basic recycling. Many local Girl Scouts signed up to help, and Maggie led the team of younger girls in completing all of the steps. Maggie hopes to lead this clean-up every year so that she and her Girl Scout sisters can further improve the trail, and hopefully pass down the project to future Girl Scouts.

Allison Toth is an eighth-grader at William Penn Middle School and a member of Troop 2035. She earned the Silver Award by completing a project benefiting Afton Elementary School. Allison revitalized the outdoor stage and surrounding courtyard space at Afton Elementary. During the covid shutdown, disuse caused the outdoor performance space and surrounding area to be overgrown and unusable. Allison loved her time performing and learning in the outdoor courtyard, so she dedicated her efforts to bringing the area back to life. The space needed to be cleared of fallen tree branches, debris, and rotten wood. The entire area was power washed, and the stage was scrubbed by hand. Allison donated new flexible outdoor seating, a new removable red theater curtain and stand for the stage, and a big outdoor bin to store everything. During Afton's annual Celebration of the Arts, Allison dedicated the stage with a plaque to Mr. Andy, the night custodian, for recognition of all his hard work in support of the Arts at Afton and Allison's project. Allison hopes that her project is enjoyed by the future performers and learners at Afton.