

2013 National Young Women of Distinction Information for Applicants

Please review this information before completing the application on the following page.

- 1. What is a National Young Woman of Distinction (NYWOD)?**
A National Young Woman of Distinction is the designation, and a special honor, conferred by Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) on ten Girl Scout Gold Award recipients whose final projects demonstrated extraordinary leadership, had a measurable and sustainable impact, and addressed a local challenge that related to a national and/or global issue.
- 2. Who is eligible to apply for this honor?** Any Girl Scout who completed her Girl Scout Gold Award between **January 1, 2011** and **August 1, 2012**.
- 3. How do I apply?** The application can be found on the following page. *Be sure to include all of the requested documents when you submit the completed application to your council.*
- 4. What is the application deadline?** You must contact your council for this information. Every council/USAGSO is responsible for establishing its own application deadline.
- 5. Where do I submit my application?** Applications **MUST** be submitted directly to your council or to your overseas committee chair.
- 6. What happens after I submit my application?** Each council is responsible for reviewing the applications they receive, and for selecting up to three nominees. Councils also are responsible for submitting their nominations to GSUSA. A panel of corporate and community leaders will assist GSUSA in choosing the ten NYWOD from the pool of nominees.
- 7. What if I belong to USAGSO?** Overseas committee chairs will submit applications directly to USAGSO to select the nominees.
- 8. When will the nominees be chosen?** Only your council can provide this information (each council will establish its own deadlines for receiving applications and for choosing nominees). Councils must, however, submit their nominations to GSUSA by **September 3, 2012**.
- 9. How many girls can each council/USAGSO nominate?** Each can nominate up to three girls.
- 10. How will the National Young Women of Distinction be recognized?** Each NYWOD will receive an academic scholarship, and will be prominently and nationally recognized during the 2013 State of the Girl Summit in Washington DC in March, 2013. *Travel, food and lodging will be paid by GSUSA. All NYWOD are expected to attend this event.*
- 11. Will they have any specific responsibilities?** All NYWOD are expected to attend the State of the Girl Summit. They also will serve as consultants to Girl Scouts of the USA, and may be asked to participate in speaking engagements, surveys, webinars and/or other Girl Scout-related activities.
- 12. Where can I find information on past Young Women of Distinction and their projects?**
Please visit the highest awards homepage http://www.girlscouts.org/program/highest_awards/
- 13. What if I need more information?** Your local Girl Scout council or overseas committee chair will be able to help you.

2013 National Young Women of Distinction Application Form

Thank you for applying to be a National Young Woman of Distinction.

IMPORTANT: Your application *must* be submitted directly to your council—not to Girl Scouts of the USA. USAGSO applicants should submit their applications directly to their overseas committee chairs. *Be sure to check with your council (or overseas committee chair) for deadline information and the address for mailing your application.*

I. General Information

Name:	Age:	Grade/College Year:
Home Address:	Date of Birth:	
City: State: Zip: Country:	Telephone:	
Mailing Address (if different from above):	Email:	
Date Gold Award project was completed (project is "completed" when council/overseas committee gives final approval):		
Name of Overseas Committee (for USAGSO applicants only):		

II. Gold Award Application Questions

1. How and why did you choose your project (explain how is it linked to a national and/or global issue)?
2. What was the impact of your project and how will that impact be sustained?
3. How has working on your project strengthened your leadership skills?

NOTE: Answer each question on a separate piece of paper. Each response should be no more than 200 words. Be sure every page includes (a) your name; (b) the name of your council or overseas committee; and (c) the question number.

III. Application Checklist (Be sure to keep a copy of all documents submitted for your own records.)

For an application to be considered, it must include:

- Completed application form (with head shot photo attached)
- Answers to Gold Award application questions
- Gold Award final report
- Letter of recommendation (from outside Girl Scouting/family)