



**Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois**

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## Shelby Long from Chester receives the Girl Scout Gold Award... the highest individual achievement in Girl Scouting

**Glen Carbon, Illinois** -- The Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois (GSSI) is pleased to announce that Shelby Long of Chester has received the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout can receive.

For her Girl Scout Gold Award project, called "It's My Turn," Shelby planned and conducted a games day for youth ages 8 to 18 with disabilities. Held at Chester High School track and basketball courts, the games day included a 50-meter dash, 100-meter dash, basketball shooting contests, softball toss, bean bag toss and a water balloon contest. Each participant were awarded plaques and medals and a back pack filled with water toys, drinking cups and bubbles.

"Through my Girl Scout Gold Award project, I gained self-confidence and enhanced my speaking skills, my patience and my compassion for others," Shelby said. "Each child I worked with had different wants and needs and I learned to understand them and which allowed me to communicate with them better. My Girl Scout Gold Award project strengthened my belief that every person has something to offer and has something we can learn from," Ms. Long added.

Shelby is the daughter of Glenn and Mary Long from Chester. She is currently a senior at Chester High School. After graduation, Shelby plans to attend college and pursue a degree in radiation therapy.

The Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout can earn, recognizes a Girl Scout's commitment to excellence as she develops skills and values to meet present and future challenges in her life. To earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, a Girl Scout Senior or Girl Scout Ambassador must design and carry out a project that fulfills a need within a girl's community, creates change, and is sustainable. The project must be completed with a suggested minimum of 80 hours of work. Only about 6 percent of eligible girls earn the prestigious Gold Award.

Today, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. is the largest voluntary organization for girls in the world. Its sole focus is to meet the needs of all girls (ages 5-17) from diverse racial, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. Today's Girl Scouts not only enjoy camping and crafts, but they also explore math and science and learn about diversity, good citizenship, leadership and teamwork. Girl Scouting is the place where girls experience the fun, friendship and power of girls together.

The Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois is a not-for-profit organization supported by various United Ways throughout the region. The Girl Scouts is a Proud Partner of United Way. For more information, please call Erin Johnson at 618.692.0692.

**Also check us out at: [www.gsofsi.org](http://www.gsofsi.org)**

