



News Release

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Contact:

Jay Strobel

jstrobel@gsofsi.org

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois

Corporate Service Center

4 Ginger Creek Parkway

Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034

618.692.0692

Regional Service Center

4102 S. Water Tower Place

Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

618.242.5079

www.gsofsi.org

Katie Bowen, Girl Scout from Staunton, earns *Gateway East Young Achievers Award*



Glen Carbon, Illinois – Katie Bowen, a Girl Scout from Staunton, Ill., has earned the prestigious Gateway East Young Achievers Award. The Gateway East Young Achievers Award recognizes youth for their achievements, leadership and community service and encourages them to reach greater levels of success. Katie joins a select group of 49 other Gateway East Young Achievers who have received this award previously.

“I am very excited and happy and this award shows me that all my hard work to improve the world around me has paid off,” said Katie. “I think my Girl Scouting experiences helped me to win this award as it has made me a stronger person and Girl Scouting showed me that my dreams can come alive and gave me the confidence to achieve things that I normally wouldn’t be able to,” she added.

Katie was nominated for the award by Carolyn Miener a Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois (GSSI) program manager. “Katie is a wonderful example of today’s youth and what they can do to make their community and world a better

place for all of us,” said Miener.

According to Miener, Katie has volunteered at numerous large GSSI events by serving as a Program Aide. In this role, she worked with adult volunteers and other girls to provide a variety of fun, interesting and rewarding program activities for younger girls. While volunteering with the Girl Scouts, Katie has lead Girl Scout Daisies, Girl Scout Brownies and Girl Scout Juniors in many programs ranging from nature awareness, camp skill building, animal care and safety to nutrition and sports.

And Katie is grateful for the Girl Scouts and being able to develop her leadership skills. “Girl Scouts has made me a better leader and taught me to never give up and to go as far as I can. It’s like going for the “gold” and making my dreams become reality,” Katie said.

Reva Bowen, Katie's mom, agrees that Girl Scouting has helped her daughter blossom into a nice, caring and committed young woman. "Girl Scouting has made Katie a stronger person and given her opportunities to strive harder to accomplish all that she dreams," Reva said. "I heard that the mayor of Staunton said that he wishes more young people would follow in her foot steps and that he is proud of her as a community leader and citizen."

During her Girl Scout career, Katie has earned the Girl Scout Bronze Award, the Girl Scout Silver Award and the Girl Scout Gold Award. To earn her Girl Scout Gold Award, Katie worked with the city of Staunton to build a pavilion at the community's new bike trail. While completing the project, she worked with the Tour de Donut Bike Club from the Boeing Corporation and many volunteers from her troop and community. The new pavilion is being used by bike enthusiasts and organizations like the Illinois Traction System which teaches children bike safety.

Katie is a sophomore at Staunton High School and is on the honor roll. She has received academic letters both her freshman and sophomore years and is also a member of Future Farmers of America, the soccer team and is on the school yearbook staff.

She is the daughter of Curtis and Reva Bowen.

The mission of Girl Scouting states: ***Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.*** Girl Scouts is the world's pre-eminent organization dedicated solely to girls - all girls - where, in an accepting and nurturing environment, girls build character and skills for success in the real world. In partnership with committed adults, girls develop qualities that will serve them all their lives - like strong values, social conscience, and conviction about their own potential and self-worth.

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.

Girl Scouting has inspired more than 50 million girls and women since its founding in 1912. As we approach the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting, councils nationwide are joining in a historic organizational transformation centered around the best leadership development experience for girls in the 21st Century, while ensuring the traditions and values that have been core to Girl Scouting since its beginning remain strong and relevant.

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 Jay Strobel at 618.692.0692 or Tricia Higgins at 618.242.5079.

Also check us out at: www.gsofsi.org

-- 30 --

