

Service Unit Recognition Event

FAQ's

What is a Recognition Event?

A recognition event is a ceremony that celebrates the achievements of Girl Scout award recipients. Award recipients are recognized and presented with their award in the presence of members of the service unit, their families, and the community. Gold Award, Silver Award, and Bronze Award recipients will have the opportunity to share their projects and inspire more girls to achieve more through Girl Scouts.

When should the service unit hold the Recognition Event?

The Recognition Event should be held before the end of the membership year (September 30). Traditionally, events have been held in the spring but the service unit may select the best fit for the greatest member and community involvement.

Does the Recognition Event need to be formal?

No, it does not need to be formal. The event should be meaningful to the girls in your service unit so we encourage you to gather their input and include older girls on the planning committee. Past events include a ceremony at a hotel with fancy cupcakes, at a park with a family picnic, and at a church with cookies and punch!

Should we hold a bridging ceremony at our Recognition Event?

Holding a bridging ceremony for troops and girls at the recognition event is a great way to include more troops and girls in the event. Check out the [Girl Scout Bridging Guide](#) for details about bridging ceremonies.

What support does council provide for Recognition Events?

Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons is dedicated to ensuring that each service unit has the support and resources needed to host a successful event. We have provided event planning resources and templates on our [website](#) under Service Unit Resources. Your Troop Engagement Specialist is also available to support your team as you are planning your event. Each service unit receives funds from council in April to support your event. The amount of funds is determined based on current year girl membership and are deposited via ACH into the service unit account in April, as long as a current year Bank Account Confirmation/ACH Form is on file.

When will we know who in our service unit is receiving awards this year?

In March, we will provide a final awards list to the Service Unit Manager with members of your service unit who are receiving the awards listed below.

- Girl Highest Awards – Gold, Silver and Bronze
- Girl 10 Year Membership Pin
- Girl Leadership Awards (Community Service Bar, Service to Girl Scouting, Torch Award, Program Aide, CIT, VIT)
- Graduating Seniors
- Adult Award Recipients
- Adult Volunteer Years of Service Awards

What award pins and certificates does council provide?

Council provides all Adult Awards and many of the Girl Awards. Please review the following list of Girl Awards that council provides. Find a detailed list of the pins and certificates provided in the [Recognition Event Planning Guide](#).

- Gold Award
- Silver Award
- Bronze Award
- Graduating Senior Certificate
- 10 Year Girl Member Pin

How does our service unit get the awards that council provides?

Submit the [Service Unit Awards Request Form](#) to let us know who will be responsible for receiving the awards and organizing them to present at the ceremony. Once we receive this form, we will mail the pins and certificates to the volunteer indicated. If we do not receive this form by **June 15**, we will mail the awards to each individual recipient in July.

How do we get the awards that council does not provide?

You can order pins and awards from our retail store. Visit the [Shop](#) page for details.

Who pays for the awards that council does not provide?

The service unit, troop or parent pays for the awards. Work with your service unit team and troop leaders to determine who will be responsible for ordering and paying for the awards.

Can council staff attend our event?

Absolutely! Please work with your Troop Engagement Specialist to invite council staff members to your event.

Can we have a pop up shop at our event?

Yes! We would love to bring you a pop up shop! Please work with your Troop Engagement Specialist or contact Member Services to request a pop up shop.

Does the council have items that we could check out for our event?

Yes! We have flags and other items you can check out for your event. Please work with your Troop Engagement Specialist for available items in your local service center.

Can we use the Girl Scout Service Centers for our event?

Yes, you can use our Service Centers or Camp Properties for your event! Visit the [website](#) for available properties and reservation information.

Who do we contact if we have questions?

Contact your Troop Engagement Specialist or Member Services at 1.800.666.2141 or help@gsdakotahorizons.org