
What are adult volunteer awards and recognitions? River Valleys' values all of our volunteers and recognize the contribution they make in developing girl leaders. We also recognize that there are individuals who provide service to Girl Scouting that is "above and beyond" the expectations of their volunteer position. GSUSA awards, created by our national organization and River Valleys' awards, created by our council are intended for volunteers such as these that provide exemplary service that goes "above and beyond."

How do Girl Scout volunteers get a GSUSA or a River Valleys' award? The Adult Awards and Recognitions Committee relies on volunteers (like you!) to nominate their Girl Scout peers that have provided service "above and beyond" their position description.

Who can nominate a volunteer for an award? All Girl Scout volunteers, girl members and/or their families. River Valleys' staff may also nominate a volunteer, but we strongly encourage Girl Scout members to nominate their peers. Service units, it is helpful if you list a designated person on your service unit level award nomination forms so we have one designated person to coordinate service unit level awards with.

What is the difference between council level awards and service unit level awards? There are two levels of awards that are available: **Council level award** nominations are due by/on January 15th and will be distributed at River Valleys' annual volunteer recognition event to be held at Gustavus College in St. Peter, MN on Saturday, April 4th. Council level awards require board approval. **Service unit level award** nominations are due by/on March 15th and are distributed at a local event established by each service unit. Please do not send council level nominations and service unit nominations together. We would prefer to not receive service unit level nominations until after the council level deadline of January 15th.

Note: Nominations for both levels of awards should focus on the previous year of service, 2007-2008, with the exception of the Thanks Badge I and II which should include accumulated years of service. Service performed in the current year, 2008-2009, is not applicable.

What are the awards River Valleys offers?

- **Council Level Awards:** **GSUSA awards:** Appreciation Pin, Honor Pin, Thanks Badge I, Thanks Badge II, Years of Service 20+ years, Membership Numerals 25+ years. **River Valleys' created awards:** Commitment to Inclusiveness, Extraordinary Events, and Service Unit Award for Excellence Level II.

- **Service Unit Awards:** **GSUSA awards:** Outstanding Leader Award, Outstanding Volunteer Award, S.T.A.R. Award, Progressive Volunteer Award, Years of Service under 20 years, Membership Numerals under 25 years. **River Valleys' created awards:** Heart in Hand Award, Service Unit Award for Excellence Level I.

Where can I get detailed information on each award as well as nomination information?

www.girlscoutsrv.org has detailed awards information. Click "Volunteer Resources" then "Adult Volunteer Recognition." If you do not have internet access you can obtain adult volunteer award information by calling your local service center.

What does “above and beyond” mean? We value all of our volunteers and recognize the contribution they are making in developing girl leaders. We also recognize that there are individuals who provide service to Girl Scouts that is “above and beyond” the expectations of their volunteer position. GSUSA and River Valleys’ awards are intended for volunteers that provide exemplary service that goes “above and beyond.”

Do only volunteers who go “above and beyond” get recognized? We agree that all volunteers deserve recognition. Not all recognition needs to be a formal award through River Valleys. Service unit teams, consider honoring your first year leaders with a card, certificate, flowers or special gift. Service unit managers consider honoring your service unit team with a computer generated card, letter, or thank you note. Some other ideas: certificates, flowers, balloons, edible bouquets, special gift, a video tribute. You might even want to establish some “fun” awards within your service unit such as “Most Creative,” “Best Use of Resources,” etc.

The volunteer I want to nominate qualifies for the Appreciation pin, a council level award, but I want to present it to her at a local event. Can I still do that? Nominate the individual for the award you feel best fits their service. All approved award recipients and nominators for **council** level awards will be invited to River Valleys’ annual Volunteer Recognition Event for presentation of the award. If the award recipient prefers to receive their award in another manner such as at a local service unit recognition event, they may make that request to the volunteer services department.

Why one Volunteer Recognition event for council level awards? We agree strong communities are important and we encourage service units to celebrate and recognize volunteers on a local level. There is also great value in showing volunteers that they are a part of something larger. River Valleys’ Volunteer Recognition event is an opportunity for volunteers from all over River Valleys’ jurisdiction to come together and hear what is happening in other areas of the council and to celebrate the impact that they are making not only in their communities but in all of River Valleys.

What awards does River Valleys pay for?

River Valleys will pay for:

- All GSUSA pins: Appreciation, Honor, Thanks I & II (council level), Outstanding Leader, Outstanding Volunteer, Progressive Volunteer, S.T.A.R. Volunteer (SU level)
- All River Valley’s created awards: Commitment to Inclusiveness, Extraordinary Events and Service Unit Award for Excellence Level II (council level) and Heart in Hand and Service Unit Award for Excellence Level I (SU level)
- Years of service 20+ years and membership numeral guards for 25+ years and above
- Contemporary membership pins, and trainer pins

River Valleys will not pay for:

- Service team pins
- Years of service pins less than 20 years, and numeral guards less than 25 years (You may purchase these through any Girl Scout store. Verification is not needed.)
- The Leadership Development pin and leaves

For information on River Valleys’ new adult awards and recognition program please visit River Valleys’ website at www.girlscoutsrv.org

Questions regarding River Valleys’ Adult Volunteer Awards can be addressed to the Volunteer Development Manager at 763-971-4040 or 1-800-548-5250; or e-mail questions to awards@girlscoutsrv.org