

# Stoneham Girl Scouts receive "Gold" award

## Highest award a Girl Scout can achieve



Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts is proud to announce Stoneham Girl Scouts Rebecca Allard, Alison Brennan, Michelle Corapi, Alora Frederick, Alyssa LoGrasso and Melissa Zeitlin received their Girl Scout Gold Award pins on Wednesday, June 22nd at a ceremony at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Marlborough. The event was attended by family, friends and Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts' CEO Ruth N. Bramson and Board President, Peggy Stevens.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout can achieve. The Gold Award is something that fulfills a need within a girl's community whether local or global, creates change, and is something that becomes ongoing. The project is more than a good service project—it encompasses organizational, leadership, and networking skills. Only about 5 percent of all Girl Scouts earn this award each year.

**Rebecca Allard**

Rebecca Allard's Gold Award project Safety/CPR and Rescue Breathing for

Dogs & Cats focused on educating the public on how to perform CPR and rescue breathing on their pets. Allard worked with a team of volunteers to research information, create brochures, and run the pet rescue clinics. Attendees were required to bring a stuffed animal to practice on. Allard also provided the participants with rescue and pet adoption information and created collection sites for items needed by local shelters, the Animal Rescue League and the ASPCA.

Alison Brennan's Stoneham Teen Hoops created a basketball clinic for 13-19 year olds to participate in during the summer. She wanted to not only provide a safe and fun activity for teens but to also teach skills and techniques to students interested in playing basketball in high school. Brennan led a group of younger teens through various techniques and drills. Later she was able to reconnect with the teens that participated and found out that many of them placed on higher level teams than they expected in the fall. She also learned that

the overall crime rate in her town decreased by five percent that summer, she hopes

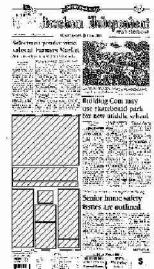
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cent that summer, she hopes that by providing teens with a positive outlet she was part of that decrease.

**Michelle Corapi**

Michelle Corapi's Gold Award titled The Reading Garden helped replant the garden and shrubs at the library. Corapi solicited help from volunteers in the community to re-plant the garden, clean out all of the trash and re-mulch an area outside the library. To create awareness and raise funds for the project, Michelle designed pins that read "The Reading Garden. Reading Starts Early" to encourage community members to not only keep the town clean but to also utilize the library and garden for free family fun time. Michelle created a how to book that will help future residents with the upkeep and appreciation of the clean, safe and inviting outdoor reading area.

**Alora Frederick**

Alora Frederick's Gold project also titled The



Reading Garden, worked with volunteers to cut back and clean up overgrown bushes near the rear exit from the junior reading room at the library. She also worked with a mason to rebuild the cement landing that had become unsafe and unattractive. Later she dug out deep roots from the previous plants to prepare the grounds for new ones. Once they were planted they mulched over the area. She installed stepping stones at the foot of the cement landing, stained two benches and placed them in the area and then created a sign that reads "The Reading Nook." Frederick's love of reading was the real inspiration for her project, so she set up an annual book swap at the local YMCA and a drawing competition at the library. She also created a how-to on designing your own reading nook.

#### **Alyssa LoGrasso**

Alyssa LoGrasso's Stoneham High School Drama Club Beautification raised funds to purchase a

new cyclorama for the stage at school. In addition to the purchase of the cyclorama, she worked with volunteers to create a pulley system that allows the cyclorama to be raised and lowered as needed preventing wear and tear. LoGrasso also cleaned, scraped paint and repainted the prop room, and created a system to keep the room organized so that other students will continue its upkeep for years to come.

#### **Melissa Zeitlin**

Melissa Zeitlin's After school track team at Stoneham Middle School worked with volunteers from the high school track team and community to recruit middle school students to participate. Zeitlin's team also learned about nutrition from a certified nutritionist and skills used in different types of races, as well as jumping and throwing. Stop and Shop and Caleruso's donated fruit, water and healthy snacks for the kids and the program culminated with a track meet at the high school. The programs will be

continued next year.

#### **About Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts**

Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts serves more than 40,000 girls ages 5-17 and 17,000 adult volunteers in 178 communities across Eastern Massachusetts with the mission to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. The Girl Scouts provide girls with the opportunity to DISCOVER their world, CONNECT with and build an understanding for others and TAKE ACTION to make the world a better place. Girls are guided by committed and caring adults who make learning fun. Girl Scouting helps each girl achieve her personal leadership pathway to the future. The Girl Scouts organization has a rich history and has been the nation's leading expert on girls for nearly 100 years. For more information, visit

[www.girlscoutseasternmass.org](http://www.girlscoutseasternmass.org).



**MICHELLE CORAPI (L) AND ALORA FREDERICK (r) received Gold Award certificate and pin for creating the Stoneham Library Reading Garden**