

THE ECHO SCHOLARSHIP

EST. 2023

ECH•O

noun

a close parallel of an idea, feeling, style or event.

The ECHO Scholarship Mission Statement



Now in its fourth year, The ECHO Scholarship founded by Zaida Alvarez and Juan Carlos Arias, was designed to support Girl Scouts in Southeast Florida who choose to create a legacy by going above and beyond in their school, community, and Girl Scout career.

Once their daughter Angélica completed her Gold Award in 2021, the Arias-Alvarez family watched as she leveraged her project's success and all she gained from it, to win the The Miami Herald Silver Knight Award and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Florida's Scout of the Year Award. Zaida and Juan Carlos were inspired to give an opportunity to other Girl Scouts who echoed Angélica's dedication, passion, and unwavering determination.

girl scouts 
of southeast florida

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The recipient of the 2026 ECHO Scholarship will receive \$3,000.00 toward her education at college or university.

Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration, the candidate must:

- Be a currently registered Girl Scout in the GSSEF Council;
- Be a current high school student;
- Have earned the Bronze Award or Silver Award;
- Have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award; and
- Have demonstrated exemplary citizenship in school, Girl Scouting, and in the community.

Submission & Dates

- Applications are due by April 6, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. The recipient will be notified by May 4.
- Email complete applications to customercare@gssef.org with subject line "ECHO Scholarship"
- The recipient is expected to attend the presentation at the Gold Award Ceremony on May 9, 2026 from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

*DoubleTree by Hilton Deerfield Beach Boca Raton
100 Fairway Dr, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441*

- A form will be provided to the recipient so scholarship funds can be forwarded directly to the college or university.
- Should the recipient be in 9th-11th grades, the form will be provided in June immediately following high school graduation and funding will be allocated the following September. Please keep GSSEF updated with preferred email contact information.

Applications must include the following:

- **School Participation Record** — maximum of one-sided page, include a resume-style record of the candidate's school-related activities, academic achievements, offices held, honors received and significant participation, etc.
- **Community Service Record** — maximum of one-sided page, include a resume-style record of the candidate's participation in/for service organizations (excluding Girl Scouting and school), earned awards, leadership positions, participation in notable activities, etc.
- **Girl Scouts Record** — maximum of one-sided page, include a resume-style record of the candidate's Girl Scouts participation; include all years of participation with troop numbers (if applicable), earned awards, leadership positions, and notable activities. Must include details about the Bronze or Silver Award project(s) and describe the candidate's Gold Award project, with specific details about the project's sustainability and total service hours dedicated to the National High Award projects.
- **Reflection Essay** — maximum of 1,000 words that provides a reflection of the most meaningful experiences in Girl Scouting; be sure to share what you have discovered about yourself and the world. Share your opinion on the importance and value of earning The Gold Award, including what you learned, the ways it engaged others, and how it will be sustained - and why younger Girl Scouts should set a personal goal to earn The Gold Award too.

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Include this cover sheet with the 2026 application.

Candidate Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Troop #: _____ Leader's Name: _____

Current grade in the 25/26 academic year: ☐ 9th ☐ 10th ☐ 11th ☐ 12th

Have you earned The Bronze Award? YES NO If YES, what year: _____

Have you earned The Silver Award? YES NO If YES, what year: _____

Have you earned The Gold Award? YES NO If YES, what year: _____

(If you will receive The Gold Award on May 9, 2026 please write “2026”)

If I am selected as the scholarship recipient, I agree to be present at the GSSEF Gold Award Ceremony on May 9, 2026: YES NO

Submission Check-List:

- This completed and legible cover sheet
- School Participation Record, max 1 page
- Community Service Record, max 1 page
- Girl Scouts Record, max 1 page
- Reflection Essay, max 1,000 words
- Email by April 6, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. to customercare@gssef.org with subject line “ECHO Scholarship”