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### **Newport News Girl Scout Earns Gold Award**

Samantha Ellis has earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor and achievement a girl can earn in Girl Scouts. Samantha is a recent graduate of Woodside High School and the daughter of Sheila and Steven Ellis.

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience teaches girls to be good environmental stewards. That is why Samantha decided to also teach her community how to “leave no trace,” a program that teaches people to protect the environment by leaving their area better than they found it. For her project, “Take Photos and Leave Footprints,” she created animal cutouts for the Virginia Living Museum that taught the public how to not disturb nature.

With the help of her project, she was able to educate the people in her community about the importance of not causing harm to the environment we live in. In addition, Samantha was able to improve her leadership and communication skills through her Gold Award project.

Her project will be sustained with the help of the museum using her cutouts during events to help educate additional members of the community on how to leave no trace.

#### **About the Girl Scout Gold Award**

The Gold Award requires girls to identify an issue in the community and carry out a Take Action project to address the matter through leadership work. Nationwide, less than six percent of eligible Girl Scouts earn the Gold Award, which adds this young lady to an elite group of female leaders across the country with the honor.

With the help of the Gold Award, girls can earn college scholarships and even enter the military one rank higher. Girls who earn their Gold Award rate their general success significantly higher than their peers. They also report greater success in reaching their goals in many areas.

#### **About Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast**

Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast, a United Way agency, serves nearly 11,000 girls in grades K through 12 with the help of nearly 5,000 adult volunteers in southeastern

Virginia and northeastern North Carolina. Girl Scouts offers a one-of-a-kind leadership development program for girls, unleashing the G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)<sup>™</sup> in every girl. Since 1912, Girl Scouts has been building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. To volunteer, reconnect, donate or join, visit [www.gsccc.org](http://www.gsccc.org) or call 1-800-77SCOUT.

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