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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Girl Receives Girl Scout Gold Award

Abby McCormick Honored with Highest Award in Girl Scouting

Girl Scouting's highest awards—the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards—are a girl's chance to make a lasting difference in the world.

For Abby McCormick from Montour High School and Coraopolis, going gold means earning the highest achievement in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award.

This award, presented to Abigail H. McCormick by Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania, recognizes girls in grades 9 through 12 who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through sustainable and measurable Take Action projects that address important community needs.

Abby McCormick is a Senior at Montour High School and a 3-year member of the Pittsburgh Mighty Penguins Sled Hockey Junior Team. As a Girl Scout member for 10 years, Miss McCormick is a Girl Scout Ambassador of Troop 51220. She was supported in her Gold Award effort by the Spina Bifida Association of Western Pennsylvania, co-workers at KTA-Tator, Inc., church members of Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church, Ms. Mae Lynn Edwards, and others. Her Gold Award project began in June 2016 and was completed in October 2017.

My Gold Award Project focused on creating a Music Therapy Program for campers of all ages attending the Spina Bifida Association Firefly Camps and Retreats because studies show (and I personally believe) that music is a very powerful tool for promoting social engagement, emotional release, creativity, and healing. I can't imagine a world without music, and I wanted to share the benefits that I've gained through my years of being involved in music programs (and my love for it) with others. I presented my program to three different age groups and lead them through various music-related activities and discussions (i.e., learning about the different Instrument families, participating in hands-on activities with a large variety of percussion instruments, and sharing what music means to them individually). I'm excited to know that campers of future retreats will continue to enjoy the activities that I prepared along with the large array of percussion instruments that were so generously donated by others to my Project. It was a fun, educational, and meaningful experience for the participants and me and hopefully, I inspired some future musicians.

Abby plans to attend Seton Hill University for Music Therapy upon graduation.

The Gold Award is a national award, with national standards, and it represents a Girl Scout's time, leadership, creativity and effort contributed to making her community better.

Serving 27 counties in western Pennsylvania

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Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Not only do Gold Award projects help communities, they also give girls important leadership skills, teaching them to seek out the work that needs doing in the world.

There are other benefits to going gold as well. Some universities and colleges offer scholarships unique to Gold Award recipients, and girls who enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces may receive advanced rank in recognition of their achievements.

For more information, visit <http://www.gswpa.org/girls/awards/gold-award/>.

About Girl Scouts: *Founded in 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA is the preeminent leadership experience for girls and is the leading authority on girls' healthy development. Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. The 3-million-member organization serves girls from every corner of the United States and its territories. Girl Scouts of the USA also serves American girls and their classmates attending American or international schools overseas in 90 countries. For more information on how to join, volunteer, reconnect or donate to Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania, call 800-248-3355 or visit gswpa.org.*