



NEWS

For Immediate Release

Contact: Dorothy Forcina
Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson
914-747-3080 ext. 721
dforcina@girlscoutshh.org

GIRL SCOUTS HEART OF THE HUDSON ANNOUNCES RECIPIENT FOR THE 2nd ANNUAL JULIETTE GORDON LOW LEADERSHIP AWARD

Pleasantville, NY – Bettina Bricetti has been selected as the recipient of the 2nd Annual Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson Juliette Gordon Low Leadership Award which will be presented at the *Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson's Leadership Luncheon honoring our Community Partners*, scheduled for **Friday, March 11, 2016** at the **Doubletree by Hilton, Tarrytown, NY**.

The Juliette Gordon Low Leadership Award was created to honor an alumna between the ages of 21 and 35, who participated in Girl Scouting as a girl for at least three years, and has distinguished herself as an exceptional leader in her chosen profession and/or her current volunteer capacity in her community.

CEO, Pamela I. Anderson said, "We are excited to award Bettina the 2nd Annual GSHH Juliette Gordon Low Leadership Award. Bettina truly exemplifies the Girl Scout mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. She had a vision about making the world a better place, and nothing could get in her way. Based on Bettina's background and perseverance, I have no doubt in my mind that she will continue to make our World a better place".

The other honorees at the Leadership Luncheon will be: Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, receiving *The Leadership Award*; and The Orange County Youth Bureau receiving *The Community Partnership Award* and In Memory of Jane Goldwasser receiving *The Humanitarian Award*. The keynote speaker will be Susan Quackenbush, Chief Human Resources Officer at Vonage. Janine Rose, News 12 Anchor and News12 Anchor/ News Director will be the Mistress of Ceremonies at the Leadership Luncheon.

To purchase tickets for the Leadership Luncheon, please visit www.girlscoutshh.org/leadershipluncheon or contact Laura Montopoli at lmontopoli@girlscoutshh.org for more information.

Bettina Briccetti biography:



Bettina Briccetti is a lifelong Girl Scout from Wappinger Falls, NY. Bettina earned her Bronze Award with her troop by renovating the play room at Vassar Brothers Hospital. In 2005, she earned her Silver Award by starting the Town of Wappinger Little League Challenger Division, a baseball team which gives children with disabilities the opportunity to play.

Bettina wanted to create "Inspiration Field" for her Gold Award Project, but the obstacles proved to be too daunting. It would have been easier to give up or give in to pressures that would change her vision of the project, but she did neither. She accepted that she would not complete the field for her Gold Award and continued working on making it happen. Throughout the process, there were many adult voices and opinions who tried to change the necessary vision of the field, but Bettina stood strong knowing that her experience coaching athletes with disabilities along with her research of other specialized fields had created the correct field design that was

needed.

Her work continued through college and graduate school and even as she entered the work force as a Special Education Music Teacher. Finally, six years after graduating from High School, "Inspiration Field" was dedicated as a baseball field in May 2015, available all in the community to enjoy.

Her endless work to build the field appropriately and in a way that was needed-not the way that was easiest or cheapest, the amount of time she put in both as a Girl Scout and as an alumna, the attention to eco- friendly materials, the wide swath of people that her endeavor helped and will continue to help in the future, and her welcoming attitude to all players with disabilities while encouraging them to do the best that each one is capable of, embodies the tenets of the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Bettina was Courageous in standing up to adults and those in positions of authority who tried to change her vision without all of the necessary information. She was Confident when interacting with adults and decision makers because she had done the research necessary before making her choices and presenting them. She displayed her Character by not giving in to pressure to make changes that would not benefit the ultimate users of the field and also by not giving up on the project despite how slowly it progressed. Finally, she "Made the World a Better Place" by creating a safe, fun and special place for kids to play and enjoy the comradery, excitement and happiness of playing sports and being part of a team.

Bettina's goals are simple and complex - to continue making the world a better place one child at a time. Additionally, although she enjoys her current teaching position in a Middle School environment, her ultimate goal is to be a high school music teacher, preferably in a low income neighborhood in NYC. She continues to grow the Challenger League working to increase participation and teams.

Bettina attended Wagner College for Music and Childhood/Special Education and the University at Buffalo for her Masters in Music Education. She is currently teaching middle school music in Brooklyn. Bettina continues to be involved with her community and advocates for equal opportunities for all people, especially children.

About Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson serves approximately 30,000 girls and 13,000 adult members in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester Counties. Working in partnership with a team of 6,500 committed adult volunteers, the Girl Scout Leadership Experience is available to girls through troops and interest groups, in neighborhood and community program facilities, in schools and as part of many after-school programs, and in juvenile detention centers. Girl Scouts provides opportunities and experiences as diverse as the girls we serve. For more information, please visit www.girlscoutshh.org.

About Juliette Gordon Low

Juliette Gordon Low founded Girl Scouts 104 years ago. She recognized the value of developing girls' leadership abilities right from the start. She started a movement that has endured and achieved her vision of developing girls into leaders.

About Girl Scouts of the USA

We're 2.7 million strong—1.9 million girls and 800,000 adults who believe girls can change the world.

It began over 100 years ago with one woman, Girl Scouts' founder Juliette Gordon "Daisy" Low, who believed in the power of every girl. She organized the first Girl Scout troop on March 12, 1912, in Savannah, Georgia, and every year since, we've made her vision a reality, helping girls discover their strengths, passions, and talents. Today we continue the Girl Scout mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

We're the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. And with programs for girls from coast to coast and across the globe, Girl Scouts offers every girl a chance to do something amazing. For more information, please visit www.girlscouts.org.