

# How to Write a Strong Nomination

## Valid Nomination Criteria

All nominations submitted for a formal volunteer award must meet the following requirements:

- Nomination is not self-submitted
- Nomination is original in nature - meaning it was not copied from another nomination or published examples of nominations
- Comprises of at least 2 examples outlining the volunteer's service and impact
- The nomination is for a current GSWCF member with a current valid background check

## Writing a Strong Nomination

Strong nominations for formal volunteer awards contain the following:

- Main ideas (What sets the volunteer apart and makes them deserving of an award)
- Evidence to support these main ideas
- Elaboration or further explain how their evidence supports their main idea

## Main Idea

Your **main idea** introduces the reader, who most likely does not know the nominee, why they are deserving of an award. Think, "What has this volunteer done that makes them stand out amongst other Girl Scout volunteers?" Summarize this in one or two sentences.

### Example:

**I am nominating Sasha Samoa for a formal award for her dedication to making Girl Scouts accessible for the girls in our community.**

## Evidence

Once you have written down your main idea, (if you have more than one that is okay, the nomination form provides space for you to include more than example) support it with **evidence**. After reading the example above, you may be wondering, "How does Sasha make Girl Scouts accessible?"

When brainstorming evidence, think: "What words or actions have I heard or seen from the nominee that supports my main idea?" Come up with specific examples from your own perspective and give as many details as possible. Remember, those who read the nominations likely do not know the volunteer you are nominating.

### Example:

I am nominating Sasha Samoa for a formal award for her dedication to making Girl Scouts accessible for the girls in our community. At one of this year's fall recruiting events, multiple girls wanted to join but we were unable to get an adult to volunteer to lead the troop. Sasha was helping at the event and offered to create a small multi-level troop of Daisies and Brownies until we were able to recruit a leader. This is in addition to her main multi-level troop of older girls. She said, "Any girl who wants to join Girl Scouts should be able to." She has poured just as much time and attention into this new troop as she has her other troop. We were eventually able to get a leader, but Sasha had held the parent/caregiver meeting, got some family members signed up as Troop Helpers, and worked with her older troop to lead some badge activities.

### Elaboration

Now that you have provided detailed evidence to support your main idea. It is time to **elaborate** by explaining to your reader how the evidence you provided connects back to your main idea. This creates a stronger nomination and summarizes to the reader why the evidence proves they are deserving of an award.

Think, "What do I want the reader to take away or understand from my evidence? What does it prove?"

### Example:

I am nominating Sasha Samoa for a formal award for her dedication to making Girl Scouts accessible for the girls in our community. At one of this year's fall recruiting events, multiple girls wanted to join but we were unable to get an adult to volunteer to lead the troop. Sasha was helping at the event and offered to create a small multi-level troop of Daisies and Brownies until we were able to recruit a leader. This is in addition to her main multi-level troop of older girls. She said, "Any girl who wants to join Girl Scouts should be able to." She has poured just as much time and attention into this new troop as she has her other troop. We were eventually able to get a leader, but Sasha had held the parent/caregiver meeting, got some families members signed up as Troop Helpers, and worked with her older troop to lead some badge activities. **This clearly shows Sasha's dedication to giving any girl access to Girl Scouts. Without Sasha, these girls might not have even been able to participate. Not only did she step up to become a leader of a second troop, but she made sure they had a strong foundation for any leader who would take over the troop.**