



Alaina Coughlin

Olathe, Kansas



Inclusion Through Music

Alaina Coughlin has been a Girl Scout for 13 as a member of Troop 121 in Service Unit 678. She is currently a freshman at Johnson County Community College.

Alaina's Gold Award project addressed the issue of a lack of inclusion for special needs students. By establishing a chapter of an organization called "United Sound" at her high school, Alaina gave students a place to come together through music and feel connected and included in a social group. At the core, the group works to develop students through musical performance and peer mentorship. By establishing that organization locally, Alaina helped students in her community lead happier lives and have greater life satisfaction in high school.

Alaina worked with Olathe South High School faculty to establish the chapter of United Sound. With assistance from the Special Education staff and the Band Director, Alaina established the club and recruited members. Though she has graduated, because it's a student organization and has a website, other students have continued the program and helped other schools form their own chapters. By increasing inclusion for special needs students, Alaina helped to create a more understanding and accepting future generation.

Because of Girl Scouts... I had a safe environment to learn how to be a strong woman as I grew up.