



## Samantha Leonard

Smithville, MO



gsksmo

# Bringing Recycling back to SHS

Samantha Leonard has been a Girl Scout for 13 years as member of Troop 32 in Service Unit 601. She is currently a senior at Smithville High School.

Samantha's Gold Award project addressed the issue of a lack of recycling resources at her high school. Reducing the waste produced by large facilities – like schools – can have a positive impact on the planet, which is what inspired Samantha to take action. When her school discontinued a recycling program, she created boxes for each classroom where students could recycle paper, then recruited a volunteer group to collect and recycle the paper each week. Thanks to her work, waste has been diverted from landfills to recycling facilities, while at the same time keeping the cost saving for the district by not having a recycling service come to the school. In addition, she created a club for students focused on environmentally friendly practices, encouraging collaboration and ensuring the program will continue.

Samantha worked with Smithville High School and volunteers to implement and maintain her recycling program. When she was researching the problem she wanted to address, Samantha realized several factors went into the decision of having a recycling program at the school and worked to find a solution that addressed the major concerns. Her approach kept the program out of the school's budget, created a club for eco-minded students and provided recycling to the high school. By thinking outside the box and coming up with an innovative solution, Samantha has ensured that Smithville High School will continue to recycle, educate students on ecofriendly practices and stay fiscally stable.

**Because of Girl Scouts... I have learned how to lead in every situation and take initiative when others won't.**