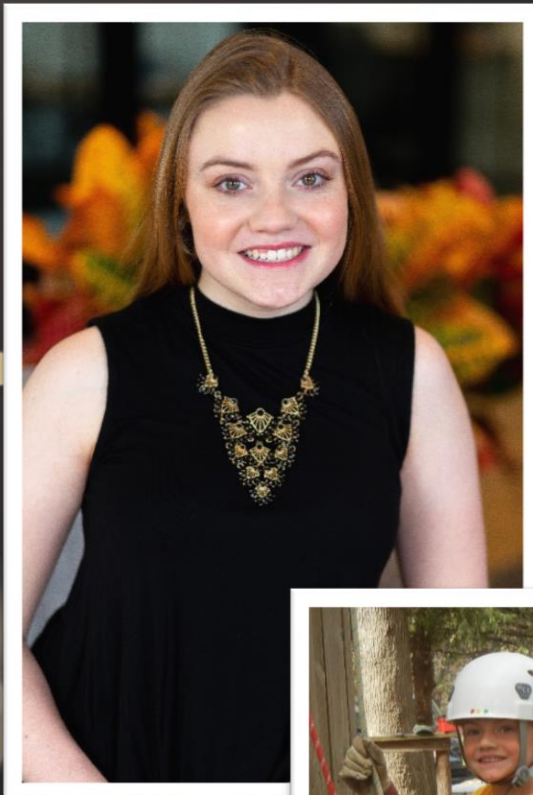




Anna McDonald

Belton, MO



Take-A-Book, Leave-A-Book

Anna McDonald has been a Girl Scout for 11 years as a member of Service Unit 653. She is currently a freshman at Kansas State University.

Anna's Gold Award project addressed the issue of a lack of access to books for elementary school students in her community. By establishing "take-a-book, leave-a-book" structures where people could take new books and leave books they've read, she was able to provide free access to anyone who wants to read new materials. When children have access to reading materials at a young age, it helps them build literacy skills that will be vital for the rest of their lives. She also hoped to encourage young children to read more by giving them access to new, exciting materials.

Anna worked with family members, Belton Parks & Recreation and donors to collect books and build the book exchange structures. The project will continue beyond her involvement as people continue to take and leave books, and the civic leadership class she enlisted to read to elementary school students as part of the project, continue with that program. During the process she learned to use new tools and work with experts around her to solve problems whenever a challenge arose. Thanks to her hard work, students from all over her community will have access to books for years to come.

Because of Girl Scouts... I grew into the woman I am today. I learned how to become an amazing leader and how to use the skills I learned from Girl Scouts in my everyday world situations.