



## Neeka Morelli

Leawood, KS



# Established an Art Club at Prairie Star Middle School

Neeka Morelli has been a Girl Scout for 12 years as a member of Troop 990 in Service Unit 694. She is currently a freshman at the University of Kansas.

Neeka's Gold Award project addressed the need for students at Prairie Star Middle School to have an art club for likeminded students to connect and learn more about their craft. To establish her club, Neeka recruited two sponsors – the art teacher and head librarian – to run the club and hold monthly meetings for members. In addition, she created an "Official Guide to Art Club" with instructions on how the club would operate, what officers it would need and monthly art projects for middle school children.

Neeka worked with Prairie Star Middle School and faculty to implement her club and ensure it continues. By establishing an official guidebook, providing future projects, and finding sponsors for the club, Neeka's project will be able to provide a place for young artists for many years. While working on this project, Neeka found challenges navigating teacher workload to find a sponsor and communication but overcame the challenge by using problem-solving skills she's learned with more than a decade of Girl Scout experience. Encouraging artistic students to connect, learn new art techniques together and create a community will benefit them long term as they grow social skills and their artistic viewpoint.

**Because of Girl Scouts... and the success of my Gold project, I believe I am better prepared, more confident and more capable of taking on leadership roles in the future. I also feel that my organizational and time management skills have improved as a result of this project and prepared me to lead larger teams and to work on more complicated projects.**