



Celebrate Gold

Ava Van Nieuwenhuyse
Shawnee, KS



Building Stronger Families

Ava Van Nieuwenhuyse has been a girl member for 11 years in Troop 996 in Service Unit 633. Ava graduated from Shawnee Mission Northwest High School and currently attends Pittsburg State University.

Ava's project focused on preventing child abuse and neglect by building stronger families. She created a parenting program for the Childcare Center of Shawnee that built community among families, offered resources, and improved knowledge of childhood development. Ava spent months putting together the curriculum, finding speakers, and recruiting feedback from parents on what resources they need.

By sharing information on the classes beyond one childcare center, Ava's Gold Award stretched beyond her immediate community. Thanks to Ava's project, families in Shawnee will have greater resources to prevent childhood neglect.