



Celebrate Gold

Isabelle Thebeau
Kansas City, KS



Re-inspiring High Schoolers to Pursue STEM

Isabelle Thebeau has been a Girl Scout for 13 years in six troops across the United States, completing her Girl Scout journey in Troop 5463 in Service Unit 661. Isabelle recently graduated as the salutatorian from Piper High School and will attend the University of Kansas to major in Behavioral Neuroscience with an emphasis in Pre-Med. She hopes to become a Pediatric Neurologist specializing in epilepsy.

Isabelle's project aimed to combat a common decrease of interest in STEM careers as students enter high school. Through research and personal experience, she identified that as students get older, their dreams of being an astronaut, scientist, or doctor often decrease due to a lack of inspiration or encouragement. As STEM related coursework gets more challenging, without proper support, students can feel discouraged and fall behind academically. To tackle this issue, she created a STEM tutoring program at Piper High School that supported more than 40 students.

Her tutoring program helped students improve academically, rebuild their confidence, and reignite an interest in STEM. Her hope is to inspire more teenagers to dream of pursuing careers in STEM fields, as many of them did as children.

“Because of Girl Scouts, I have discovered that helping and inspiring those around me makes me feel fulfilled and happy. This wonderful organization also taught me how to be a better leader and how to express empathy.”