



Celebrate Gold

Shayla Gould
Kansas City, MO



Say and Play Communication Boards



Shayla Gould has been a girl member for 13 years, first in the Girl Scouts of the Missouri Heartland Council as part of Troop 70092 and Troop 70391 in Service Unit 710. She has been a Juliet in Service Unit 606 as part of Girl Scouts of Northeast Kansas & Northwest Missouri for one year. Shayla recently completed her Junior year at the University of Central Missouri as a Professional Pilot and Aviation Safety major. She plans to obtain her Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic Certificate by the time of graduation and currently works as a Mechanic Apprentice.

Shayla's project addressed the issue of language barriers within her area. Language barriers come in many forms, including: nonverbal, limited language skills, English as a second language, or differences in spoken language. To tackle this issue in her community, she created interactive signs and placed them at seven different locations located in Joplin, Neosho, Webb City, & Carl Junction, where children and families frequently visit.

Playgrounds are places to be enjoyed by all, and these communication boards are a step towards greater inclusivity among all children regardless of language barriers. By encouraging communication among various communities within these areas, she hopes to help foster friendships, understanding and unity.

“Because of Girl Scouts, I have learned what it means to be a girl and now woman in a world that isn’t always accepting of us. I’ve learned how to advocate for myself and others. I’ve realized my love for traveling via going on trips with my old Girl Scout troop, this allowed for the door into aviation to be opened. Girl Scouts has taught me to explore my passions and now, I’m chasing my dreams of becoming a pilot.”