



Celebrate Gold



Syeda Khadijah

Overland Park, KS



Eliminating Plastic Waste One Step at a Time

Syeda Khadijah has been a Girl Scout for eleven years in Troop 4162 in Service Unit 672. She is a junior at Blue Valley West High School and plans to pursue her nursing degree after graduation.

When volunteering at the Islamic Center of Johnson County, Syeda noticed that there were no drinking fountains or water outdoors for when children went out to play. Therefore, many kids were using single-use plastic water bottles instead of refillable, reusable options. Syeda's project installed an outdoor water fountain with multiple spouts and a bottle filler attachment so that visitors had access to drinking water. Additionally, Syeda distributed reusable water bottles to all of the children that attended summer camp at the Islamic Center and helped the children decorate their bottles so that they would bring them back to camp, eliminating single use plastic waste.

Syeda's project meets an essential need for the community, but also encourages those who use the water fountain to live a more eco-friendly and environmentally conscious lifestyle. With easy access to refillable water, the amount of single use plastics at the Islamic Center of Johnson County will decrease, creating a less wasteful environment for the future.

Because of Girl Scouts...I was able to learn valuable life skills, develop leadership abilities, and make lifelong friendships.