



# Celebrate Gold



**Gabi Poeschl**

Overland Park, KS

## Happy Learning Kits: Addressing the Summer Slide

Gabi Poeschl has been a Girl Scout for 11 years as an Indy Girl Scout in Service Unit 675. She will be a junior in the fall at St. Thomas Aquinas High School with plans to attend law school after she graduates from college.

Gabi's Gold Award project addresses the issue of educational disparities among school aged children from low-income families over the summer months. To help combat this issue, she created over 700 "Happy Learning Kits" and delivered them to low-income students and families in Kansas City, KS. The kits were aimed at reducing the "summer slide," which is a decline in reading ability and other academic skills that can occur over the summer months when school is not in session. She included books, coloring materials, pencils, folders, flash cards, and other resources from local educational professionals in the kits to empower families to combat this loss of learning.

Through her website ([happylearningkits.org](http://happylearningkits.org)) and the delivered kits, she has been able to help change the achievement gap by providing children from low-income areas the tools/resources to be successful over the summer. In addition to the physical kits, resources are available on her website and accessible to anyone with an internet connection and can be updated in the future.



**Because of Girl Scouts...I learned that I can overcome challenges with proactive communication and recruiting the help of people within my community.**