



Celebrate Gold

Lainey VanNess
Platte City, MO



Band Mentorship Program

Lainey VanNess was a Girl Scout for 8 years as a member of Troop 377 in Service Unit 601. She recently graduated from Platte County High School and plans to attend the University of Missouri pursuing a Mechanical Engineering degree.

Lainey loved being a member of her high school band and found that regular lessons were inaccessible to a large number of students due to cost. To make music lessons more accessible, she created a mentorship program at her school that allowed upperclassmen to provide free lessons to underclassmen and receive service credit in return. The program was successful at helping more students excel in band and helped upperclassman hit goals for their own service-based learning.

Participation in the arts is an important part of development for young adults as it fosters creativity, social relationships and stimulates the brain. By making music lessons more available to students in her high school, Lainey not only was able to share her love of instruments, but the program helped students flourish in music. The program will continue with the volunteers at her high school for years to come!



“Because of Girl Scouts... I was able to make connections in my new school easier and was able to maintain friendships in my old troop due to still being able to participate in that old troop because I didn’t move too far away.”