

Erin Jones's Gold Award Project: Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)

Erin has been a Girl Scout for 14 years. She has received her Bronze and Silver Award. She fell in love with Girl Scouts at an early age. In the future she wants to start her own Girl Scout Troop.



How did you come up with your idea? I came up with my idea by talking to some of my close friends and realizing how much losing people in our community affected them so I wanted to try to do something to help.

Were you intimidated by the scale of the project? I was not because I was very comfortable in my community.

Can you tell us a little story about some part of your project that was special to you? Something funny, or touching, or that went terribly wrong and how you fixed it? When I gave the first assembly speech for my project I remember the students who were listening did not really take an interest in it. They continued to chat and talk to their friends while I was talking. The moment I pulled up the pictures of the students who we had lost from our community everyone became silent and from then on they were invested in what I was saying.

How did you keep up the momentum for the project? Having a passion for equity and equality, which is a main focus in my project, continuously gave me momentum to continue the project.

How will people benefit from this? Hopefully people will consider their options more carefully before making a destructive decision.

How did you feel after you finished? After I finished I really felt accomplished and I felt that I reached the goal that I set for myself at such a young age.

What advice would you give to other girls considering a Gold Award (beyond telling them to just "go for it")? I would tell them to start early

and to pick something that they are really passionate about because if they are not passionate about it they will not get it done.

Your Gold Project made a change for the better in your community.

Did it change you? If so, how? I think it did change me because it made me find something I am very passionate about. I will take away leadership, planning, communication skills.