



Girl Scout of Distinction



Lakshmi Natesan

Pine-Richland High School
Gold Award Project: *Herstory*

Lakshmi taught lessons on women in history, supplementing the sixth-grade social studies curriculum in her district. An avid lover of history since childhood, Lakshmi often searched for women to look up to in her history lessons, to no avail. When she entered high school, she was introduced to a variety of amazing historical women, and they have stuck with her ever since. To bridge the gap between the women who deserve to be learned about and the students who deserve to learn about them, Lakshmi created lessons highlighting their accomplishments.

To promote equity and equality, Lakshmi highlighted women who tend to be forgotten. Her lessons consisted of documentaries about their lives and achievements and pre- and post-lesson questions, followed by facilitated discussions. Lakshmi worked with four sixth-grade classes and introduced over 80 students to historical women achievers.

In addition to her involvement in Girl Scouts, Lakshmi was active in several clubs. At

Pine Richland High School, she was the executive treasurer of Student Government, co-president of SciGirls, and treasurer chair of Minithon. She was a member of the Mock Trial team, National Honors Society, and Cultural Communications Alliance. Now, Lakshmi is a freshman at Bryn Mawr College pursuing a major in psychology and a minor in history of art and math.

Lakshmi thanks her mother and grandmother who were Girl Scouts and introduced her to the program. She is grateful for all the strong women in her life, especially her older sister, Umayal who has inspired her to be the best version of herself. Lakshmi is appreciative of her family, friends, and teachers for supporting her through her project! Lakshmi thanks her Gold Award Advisor, Dr. Cyndi Poole, for her wisdom, guidance, and humor, and Eden Hall Upper Elementary teacher, Barri Holland, for opening her classroom and allowing Lakshmi to meet and teach a truly exceptional group of students!