

GREENE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Greene County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Alan Yost, Director of Economic Development and Tourism
DATE: July 30, 2026
SUBJECT: Girl Scout Gold Award Project at the Greene County Visitor Center

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to request Board of Supervisors approval for a Girl Scout Gold Award project proposed for the grounds of the Greene County Visitor Center. The project would establish a certified backyard wildlife habitat that supports the Visitor Center's community and tourism mission while improving an existing landscaped area.

Girl Scout Gold Award Program

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest honor in Girl Scouting and is available to Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts in grades 9 through 12. Gold Award candidates identify a community issue, research its underlying causes, develop and present a project plan, recruit and lead a team, and implement a solution designed to produce measurable and sustainable impact. The program requires substantial independent leadership and project management; Girl Scouts of the USA reports that candidates devote at least 80 hours to the effort.

Proposed Visitor Center Project

The proposed "Greene County Visitor Center Backyard Habitat Initiative" would design and install a certified backyard habitat demonstrating how native Virginia plants and simple landscaping practices can support birds, butterflies, bees, and other wildlife. Work would include installing in a current mulched area native flowers, shrubs, and grasses, and adding appropriate habitat features such as a bird bath, bird feeder, and butterfly host plants. The project also includes permanent educational signage and a brochure or QR code explaining the value of native plants, local pollinators, and steps residents can take to create wildlife-friendly spaces at home.

The Girl Scout would lead project planning, fundraising, volunteer recruitment, workdays, donation requests, and coordination with community partners such as Master Gardeners, native plant organizations, and local nurseries. The proposal estimates an approximately \$800 project budget, with an effort to reduce costs through donations and community support.

Staff Considerations

The proposed project is consistent with the current master plan for the property. It would add an attractive native landscape feature, provide visitors with practical environmental information, and create an opportunity to support the leadership development of a Greene County youth.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the Greene County Visitor Center Backyard Habitat Initiative as a Girl Scout Gold Award project.