Niharika Malhotra of Scripps Ranch has earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the organization’s highest honor awarded to Girls Scouts for demonstrating extraordinary leadership by creating sustainable solutions that address society’s greatest challenges. For her Gold Award project, Niharika led a campaign to spread awareness of the benefits of healthy eating, including how good dietary habits can prevent a variety of ailments. Her work entailed research, collaboration with experts, and weekly seminars. She also created an online book, website, and a video to further educate her audience.

Niharika joined Girl Scouts as a Cadette and earned the Silver Award, the highest accolade for Girl Scouts in grades six through eight. She has also received a Society of Women Engineers award, science fair honors, and is a martial arts brown belt pursuing her black belt. Niharika will graduate from Scripps Ranch High School in the Class of 2020 and aspires to become an engineer.

Niharika was among 61 Gold Award winners honored during a recent ceremony at the Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines. “Gold Award Girl Scouts change the world for the better, and change it for good!” said Girl Scouts San Diego CEO Carol M. Dedrich. “Our 2019 honorees embody everything this achievement stands for.” Through programs focused on outdoor adventure, STEM, life skills, and entrepreneurship, Girl Scouts prepares girls for a lifetime of leadership. For information on Girl Scouting opportunities contact Tracy Browns at tbrowns@sdgirlscouts.org, or visit sdgirlscouts.org.