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Gold Award project helps first responders during evacuations

Rising Athenian School senior Maddy Kim is working on her Gold Award, which is the highest award a Girl Scout can earn. Over the past two years, the Lamorinda teen learned that there is often confusion during fire evacuations.

"During the Sanders Ranch fire and evacuation last year, I learned that there was a lot of confusion among the residents and authorities about who had evacuated and who had not," Kim wrote on her website. "I realized that it would be more effective if there was a way to notify first responders as to whether or not households had evacuated."

For her project, Kim is making a double-sided door hanger that can be used during a fire evacuation to make the process quicker and more efficient. "By looking for the door hangers on peoples' doors, first responders will know whether people have already evacuated from their houses or if they need help. My plan is to print enough signs for all the households in Moraga and then enlist help from volunteers to pass them out to everyone. I will also leave extra signs with the police and fire departments and with realty offices so that new Moraga residents can continue to have access to these signs."

Kim is currently working with the Moraga Police Department and Lt. Brian South, who is also the president of Moraga Rotary. "Working with the Moraga Police Department, I learned about the ways in which they help residents during active evacuations and that there is not an easy way for residents and police officers to communicate, which is what my project would address. I currently have four student volunteers from my school and we will be working all summer and fall to pass the door hangers out, but I am still soliciting volunteers to help me." For information about the project, visit: <https://maddysgold21.wixsite.com/evacnow>.

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