

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Contact: Amy Phillips**
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Garden State Council Honors Samantha DeAlmeida Roman and Bob Gray as Distinguished Citizens Award Honorees

Westampton, NJ [April XX 2025] – Scouting America’s Garden State Council is proud to announce Samantha DeAlmeida Roman, President and CEO of Associated Builders and Contractors – NJ Chapter, and Bob Gray, President and CEO of Gray Trucking, as the 2025 Burlington County Distinguished Citizens Award honorees. The annual reception will take place on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at Deerwood Country Club in Westampton, New Jersey. Tickets, sponsorship opportunities, and tribute options are available at:

<https://www.gardenstatescouting.org/burlington-dca/>.

“The Distinguished Citizens Award Reception is a meaningful tradition that brings together community leaders who believe in preparing young people for lives of purpose,” said Patrick Linfors, Scout Executive of Scouting America’s Garden State Council. “Our 2025 honorees are shining examples of what it means to lead with integrity, and we’re proud to celebrate their impact.”

Samantha DeAlmeida Roman leads the Associated Builders and Contractors, New Jersey Chapter, representing over 1,400 merit shop construction firms. As the youngest ABC Chapter President nationwide, she champions workforce development, equal bidding opportunities, and diversity in the construction industry. A seasoned public affairs professional, she has also worked with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and the New Jersey Hospital Association. Samantha holds degrees from Monmouth University and has earned recognition on numerous state and national leadership lists. She lives in New Jersey with her husband, John, their daughter, Reagan, and a lively group of pets.

Bob Gray is a successful entrepreneur and President of Gray Trucking in Beverly, NJ. A Lincoln Tech Hall of Fame inductee, Bob has enjoyed a 40-year career in the transportation industry. A lifelong Scouter and Eagle Scout, he has held numerous leadership roles within the Garden State Council, including Council President during the successful 2012 merger that formed the current council. His commitment to community service extends beyond Scouting to organizations like the Make-A-Wish Foundation. He currently serves as Commodore of the Union League of Philadelphia Yacht Club. Bob and his wife, Deirdre, reside in Medford and are proud parents of two Eagle Scout sons.

Both honorees are being recognized for their exceptional leadership, dedication to community service, and unwavering commitment to strengthening Burlington County.

Proceeds from the event support local Scouting programs that instill character, citizenship, and leadership skills in youth across southern New Jersey. Each year, the reception brings together

business leaders, civic organizations, and supporters of Scouting to honor those whose contributions reflect the mission and spirit of Scouting.

The Scouting America Garden State Council serves thousands of youth across southern New Jersey, providing life-changing experiences that help young people grow into leaders, build lasting values, and lead lives rooted in service and adventure. It is leaders like Samantha and Bob—who exemplify character, service, and a passion for community—that have helped Scouting thrive for over 115 years, inspiring generations to live by the ideals of the Scout Oath and Law.

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About Scouting America Garden State Council:

The Scouting America Garden State Council is chartered to provide comprehensive support and programs for Scouts across South Jersey. Serving communities in Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem, and parts of Atlantic counties, the council offers a range of Scouting programs, including Cub Scouts (grades K–5), Scouts (ages 11–17), Venturing, Sea Scouts, and Exploring (all co-ed, ages 14–20). Through engaging activities that emphasize outdoor adventures, leadership development, and community service, the Garden State Council prepares youth to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

For more information, visit www.gardenstatescouting.org.



Samantha DeAlmeida Roman, President and CEO of Associated Builders and Contractors – NJ Chapter



Bob Gray, President and CEO of Gray Trucking