



# Emily McGee

## *Burrowing Owl Project*

With the ongoing loss of nesting habitats, water, and food sources for burrowing owls due to land overdevelopment, Emily focused her Gold Award project on raising awareness and addressing the challenges faced by this important animal in our desert's ecosystem. To bring her vision to life and earn the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, Emily developed an artificial burrowing site at her high school and coordinated volunteer support for two additional artificial burrowing habitat sites to feed and monitor. All three burrows are self-sustainable and will continue to provide habitats to stop the decline of the burrowing owl population. Emily brought her cause to local school officials, schools in agricultural areas of Arizona and city youth commission meetings to raise awareness. Emily's research and project findings were also shared in a presentation that reached over 800 scholars and more than 300 teachers within her school district. A Girl Scout of 11 years, Emily would like to become a medical examiner.

