

Money and Your Highest Awards Projects

Dos and Don'ts for the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards

- 1) You cannot raise money for your project to benefit another organization.
 - For example, you cannot host a bake sale and donate the earnings to a food pantry.

- 2) You cannot solicit funds, including gift cards.
 - This means you cannot ask people to donate money (funds) toward your project expenses.
 - Girl Scout troops and individual girls are considered subordinate organizations of GSCO by the IRS, and are not included within GSCO's tax exemption.

- 3) You can ask for donations of goods and/or services.
 - This means you can ask people to donate lumber, plants, food, printing services, etc.
 - If in the process of asking for donations of goods someone offers you money, you may accept it, but you cannot directly ask for money.
 - i. If the donor would like a tax-deductible receipt for donations \$250 or more, the money must come through GSCO as [troop sponsorship](#). Email highestawards@gscolorado.org for more information.

- 4) Your troop may carry out a group money earning activity.
 - Bake sale, car wash, garage sale, etc. (see page 2 for more examples)
 - Check out [Chapter 8 of Volunteer Essentials](#) for more details
 - Remember, the majority of the hours spent earning your Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award should not be toward planning or executing a money earning activity.

- 5) You can apply for a grant in partnership with another organization or donor.
 - You must contact highestawards@gscolorado.org if you or your troop members are planning on doing this.

- 6) You may use existing troop funds to support your project. The troop must decide as a group how to distribute the funds.

- 7) You may use your personal funds (from a job, birthday gifts, etc.) to support your project.

- 8) You may charge a small fee for an event to cover the costs of the project.
 - You may not profit in any way from your project or fee.
 - The money you earn must be used to cover the cost of the event/program.
 - i. Example: You charge 50 participants \$1 each to cover the \$50 fee for renting the community recreation center.
 - ii. You should try your hardest to avoid charging participants anything to participate in your Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award project. Write a formal letter requesting that services and/or

Troop Money Earning Ideas

* Reminder: All activities must adhere to the GSCO Group Money Earning guidelines in Chapter 8 of [Volunteer Essentials](#).

- 1) Participate in the GSCO Fall & Cookie Sale Programs! Think big! Arrange booth sales at local businesses or sell cookies to companies for special treats for their staff. You end up helping your council as well as your troop.
- 2) Provide childcare at special events during the holiday season or community events. Be sure you know the basics of babysitting and have an adult trained in first aid and CPR present.
- 3) Put on a gigantic garage sale. Don't forget to make refreshments to sell!
- 4) Offer fun activities and face painting at family and community events.
- 5) Wrap gift packages at holiday fairs.
- 6) Provide home birthday parties on order (cupcakes and games for a busy family).
- 7) Raking leaves, cutting grass, weeding, shoveling snow, walking pets.
- 8) Cooking class or other specialty class.

Things Not to Do

- 1) Do not plan a money earning activity during a Council Product Program
- 2) Resell a commercial product
- 3) Earn money for another organization
- 4) Games of chance
- 5) Direct solicitations of cash
- 6) Sales on the internet. *With the exception of GSUSA approved product sales online activities through M2Media and/or Digital Cookies.
- 7) You may not use any crowd funding websites
- 8) Community nights at restaurants
- 9) Money earning activities where Girl Scouts might be perceived as endorsing a product, political viewpoint, or cause. This includes getting paid to pass out fliers for political candidates or freebies at a business opening. When in doubt, email highestawards@gscolorado.org.