

Highest Awards Frequently Asked Questions

What are the prerequisites to earn the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards?

For the Bronze Award, there are two options for Juniors:

- Earn a Junior Leadership Award (Junior Aide, True North Award, Take Action Award, or Global Action Award) OR
- Complete a Junior Journey

For the Silver Award, there are three options for Cadettes:

- Earn the Bronze Award as a Junior OR
- Earn a Cadette Leadership Award (Silver Torch, Program Aide, True North Award, Take Action Award, or Global Action Award) OR
- Complete a Cadette Journey

For the Gold Award, there are three options for Seniors and Ambassadors:

- Earn the Silver Award as a Cadette OR
- Earn a Senior or Ambassador Leadership Award (Gold Torch, VIT, CIT, True North Award, Take Action Award, or Global Action Award) OR
- Complete a Senior or Ambassador Journey

What are the minimum number of hours for earning each of the awards?

Not all projects will require the same length of time to complete from planning to sharing and celebration. The time it takes to earn the awards will depend on the nature of the project, the size of the team, and the support of the community. Quality projects should be emphasized over quantity of hours. After the prerequisite requirement is fulfilled, the minimum number of hours for each award is:

- The Bronze Award: Minimum of 20 hours
- The Silver Award: Minimum of 50 hours
- The Gold Award: Minimum of 80 hours

Can Girl Scouts begin working on their awards the summer after they bridge from one Girl Scout level to the next?

Yes. Girls can begin to earn the awards over the summer.

Can Take Action Projects for the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards focus on Girl Scouting?

Yes, Take Action projects for the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards may benefit the Girl Scout community. However, there is a specific award progression that should be honored: Take Action projects for the Bronze Award may focus on service in support of the Girl Scout Movement, whereas **Take Action projects for the Silver and Gold Awards are expected to reach into the community to “make the world a better place.”** At the Silver and Gold Award levels, a Girl Scout should first consider issues they’re passionate about in the community, school, and world. Then, they should investigate the issue to uncover its root cause, connect with the community to begin

developing a solution, and enlist their team. As they develop a project plan, they will determine their target audience. It's at this step that they might decide Girl Scouts is the best audience or beneficiary.

Overall, award progression offers younger Girl Scouts the opportunity to develop their planning and leadership skills within the comfort and familiarity of Girl Scouting or another local community. As they mature, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors are ready to move beyond the Girl Scout family to share their leadership skills—and impact—with the wider community. It is in fully exploring their communities that they exemplify the Girl Scout mission.

Do we need a different set of requirements for girls with disabilities to earn the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards?

No. The Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards are done to the best of a Girl Scout's ability. There is no need to have special requirements for Girl Scouts with disabilities—encourage flexibility and the recruitment of advisors that can work with the girl individually.

Can a troop or group do their Gold Award together?

No—The Gold Award is an individual Girl Scout's journey. The Gold Award process requires a Girl Scout to take control of their leadership development and grow in new ways that a group setting cannot provide. This is a commitment the Girl Scout makes and completes as an individual.

What is the difference between a troop/group volunteer and a Girl Scout Gold Award project advisor in the Girl Scout Gold Award process? Do girls need both?

A **Troop/Group Volunteer** is the adult who works with an ongoing troop or group. Once a Girl Scout identifies their issue, the troop/group volunteer might help them identify a person in the community who could be a great project advisor.

A Girl Scout Gold Award **Project Advisor** is a volunteer that guides a Girl Scout as they take their project from the planning stage to implementation. The project advisor may not be a Girl Scout's parent or a Girl Scout troop/group volunteer. The project advisor is typically someone from the community who is knowledgeable about the issue and who can provide guidance, experience and expertise along the way.

Why can't a parent be a Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor?

Girl Scouts are encouraged to connect with their community when earning the Girl Scout Gold Award. That means working with a project advisor who is not their parent.

At what point should a Girl Scout Gold Award Project Advisor be identified?

The Project Advisor should be identified in the planning phase before the Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposal is turned in to the council. The Project Advisor expands the network of adults and provides expertise for a Girl Scout's project. If a Girl Scout has an idea before they start any work on their Girl Scout Gold Award, they might want to identify their project advisor from the very beginning.

What is the role of the Girl Scout Gold Award Committee/Mentor?

The Girl Scout Gold Award Committee (comprised of Gold Award Mentors) supports Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors as they go through the process of earning their Girl Scout Gold Award. Girl Scout Gold Award Committees are typically comprised of community members, educators, key volunteers, and young alums who have earned their Girl Scout Gold Award. The Committee works with designated council staff, and we are always looking for more talented help on these Committees!

The committee's role is to ensure that Gold Award projects meet the national guidelines. The committee reviews Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposals, attends project presentations, makes recommendations for project development and resources, reviews final reports, and makes decisions on final approvals. If a Girl Scout's project has not yet achieved its goals, the committee and mentor provide suggestions and tips to help the Girl Scout develop a high-quality Gold Award project.

When does the Gold Award Committee meet?

Girl Scouts of Colorado is lucky to have 4 regional Gold Award Committees. They generally meet monthly, and some meet on an as-needed basis. Girl Scouts should submit their Gold Award proposals online at least 6-8 weeks prior to the start date of their project to ensure they can be scheduled for a proposal presentation in a timely manner.

What does it mean to have a sustainable project?

A sustainable project is one that lasts after the Girl Scout's involvement ends. A focus on education and raising awareness is one way to make sure a project is carried on. Workshops and hands-on learning sessions can inspire others to keep the project going. Another way to create a sustainable project is by collaborating with community groups, civic associations, non-profit agencies, local government, and/or religious organizations to ensure the project lasts beyond the Girl Scout's involvement.

How does a Girl Scout measure project impact?

A project is measurable when a Girl Scout collects information or data throughout their project and uses it to show that their actions have had a positive impact on the community and/or contributed to addressing their chosen issue. Learn more on page 7 of the [Your Guide to Going Gold](#) and page 19 of the [Cadette Workbook to Earning Your Silver Award](#).

Can a Girl Scout earn the Gold Award even if they haven't been in Girl Scouts very long?

Yes! They just needs to be a registered Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador and completed one of the prerequisites to begin their Gold Award project.

What if a Girl Scout is 18 and graduating? Can they complete their project when they are in college?

A Girl Scout has until they turn 18, or until the end of the Girl Scout membership year

(September 30th) when they are a senior in high school, to complete their project and have it approved by the Gold Award Committee. After this point, they become a young alum and are no longer eligible to earn the Gold Award.

What if a Girl Scout graduates and is 18 and doesn't have their project completed?

In this case, the Girl Scout has until September 30th of the year they graduate to finish their project and earn the award. After this point, they become a young alum and are no longer eligible to earn the Gold Award.

When does a Girl Scout need to complete their project by in order to be honored at the Highest Awards Celebration in the spring?

All Girl Scouts must have their projects completed and approved by March 30th to be eligible to attend that year's Highest Awards Celebration.

- **Bronze Award:** The Bronze Award Final Report must be submitted by March 30th
- **Silver Award:** The Silver Award Final Report must be submitted by March 30th
- **Gold Award:** The Gold Award Committee must approve the final presentation by March 30th. All Gold Award Candidates should submit their final reports in Go Gold at least **4 weeks prior to March 30th** to ensure they can be scheduled to present their final report to the committee before the deadline.

Any Girl Scouts completing their project after March 30th will be invited to attend next year's Highest Awards Celebration, and they will appear in the following year's Highest Awards Yearbook as well.

Is Go Gold online required in order to earn a Gold Award?

Yes, submitting all materials through the Go Gold online platform is required in order to earn a Gold Award.

What if a Girl Scout can't log on to Go Gold online, or it is not functioning for them?

Go Gold provides a Username and Password recovery function that Girl Scouts can use to log in. We always encourage Girl Scouts to download copies of their work before submitting. If the website continues not to function, please contact highestawards@gscolorado.org for assistance.

Have other questions? Email highestawards@gscolorado.org