

Highest Awards Frequently Asked Questions



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

The journeys give girls a full experience of what they will do as they work to earn the highest awards. The skills girls gain while working on the journeys will help them develop, plan and implement their award Take Action project.

What makes the awards' guidelines different from the journeys?

In contrast to journey Take Action projects, which give girls themes on which to base their journey Take Action project, the Girl Scout Award Take Action projects have no pre-designed theme. Girls select their own theme, design, and execute their Take Action project.

What are the suggested 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 journey(s) requirement is fulfilled, the suggested minimum number of hours to use as a guide is:

The Bronze Award -- suggested minimum 20 hours

The Silver Award -- suggested minimum 50 hours

The Gold Award -- suggested minimum 80 hours

Can girls begin working on their awards the summer after they bridge (transition) 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?

Final Take Action Projects for the Girl Scout Bronze Award may focus on service in support of the Girl Scout movement, while Take Action Projects for the Girl Scout Silver Award and Gold Award are expected to reach beyond Girl Scouting to "make the world a better place." The award progression is planned to offer our younger girls the opportunity to develop their planning and leadership skills within the comfort and familiarity of Girl Scouting if they so choose. As they mature within Girl Scouting, our Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors are ready to move beyond the Girl Scout family to share their leadership skills with the wider community. It is in fully exploring their communities that our older girls exemplify the Girl Scout mission to "Build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place."

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's ability. There is no need to have special requirements for girls 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?

The Gold Award is an individual girl's journey. The Gold Award process requires a girl to take control of her leadership development and grow in new ways that a group setting cannot provide. This is a commitment she 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 identifies her issue, the troop/group volunteer might help her 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 as she takes her project from the planning stage to implementation. The project advisor may not be a girl'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?

Girls are encouraged to connect with their community when earning the Girl Scout Gold Award. That means working with a project advisor who is not her 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's project. If a girl has an idea before she starts any work on her Girl Scout Gold Award, she might want to identify her project advisor from the very beginning.

What is the role of the council's 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 women who have earned their Girl Scout Gold Award – we are always looking for more talented help on these Committees. The Committee works with designated council staff.

The committee's role is to ensure that girls' projects meet the national guidelines. The committee reviews Girl Scout Gold Award Project Proposals and conducts interviews, makes recommendations for project development and resources, reads the final report and hears final presentations, and approves the project. If a girl's project has not yet achieved its goals, the committee and mentor provide suggestions and tips to help her develop a high quality Gold Award project.

When does the Gold Award Committee meet?

Girl Scouts of Colorado is lucky to have 7 regional Gold Award Committees. Depending on regional need, many meet monthly, and some meet on an as needed basis. Girls should submit their Gold Award proposals online at least 4-8 weeks prior to the start date of their project to ensure she is scheduled for an interview in a timely manner.

What does it mean to have a sustainable project?

A sustainable project is one that lasts after the girl'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's involvement.

How does a girl measure project impact?

Girls identify their project goals for their community, target audience and themselves by developing success indicators using a matrix provided in the guidelines.

Can a girl earn the Girl Scout Gold Award even if she hasn't been in Girl Scouts very long?

Yes! She just needs to be a registered Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador to begin her Gold Award project.

What if a girl is 18 and graduating? Can she complete her project when she is in college?

A girl has until she turns 18 or until the end of the Girl Scout membership year (September 30th) when she is a senior in high school.

What if a girl graduates and is 18 and doesn't have her project completed?

In this case the girl would have until September 30 of the year she graduates.

When does a girl need to complete her project by in order to be honored at the Council Celebration?

A girl must be working with her mentor on her final report by February 1 in order to allow time for review, revisions, and a final presentation by March 1. She must be fully complete (final report and presentation) by March 1 in order to be included in that year's celebration.

What if a girl's project is not completed by the deadline for council celebrations?

The girl will be invited to attend the next year's celebration, and will appear in the following year's Celebration booklet 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 in Girl Scouts of Colorado.

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

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