



Girl Scouts Highest Awards Fact Sheet

The **Highest Awards, the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards**, are leadership awards for Take Action projects that address the root cause of a community issue with a sustainable and measurable solution.

Take Action Projects:

Do you know the difference between a community service project and a Take Action project? The Girl Scout Silver Award must include a Take Action project that address the **root cause** of a community issue while actively **working with the community** for a **sustainable** and **measurable** solution.

Community service projects are important as they address an immediate need in the community, however, they only help for a short period. A Take Action project is lasting and creates long-term change.

Community Service	Take Action Project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A short-term effort that helps something or someone fulfill any immediate need. • Done FOR the community • Joining an existing effort to solve an issue • Done as part of an existing team, usually as a volunteer • Working toward a goal that is set by others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A long-term project with sustainable and ongoing influence that addresses an issue's root cause • Done WITH the community • Creating a unique initiative to address an issue's root cause • Creating and leading your own team of volunteers • Setting goals and leading a team to achieve them.

Take Action projects have up to **five elements**. The Gold Award requires all five; the Girl Scout Silver Award requires three; and the Girl Scout Bronze Award requires two. This way, Girl Scouts learn something new and have opportunities to be challenged in different ways as they earn each award.

	Leadership	Root Cause	Sustainable	Measurable	National and/or Global Link
Bronze Juniors	◆	◆	●		
Silver Cadettes	◆	◆	◆	●	●
Gold Seniors/Ambassadors	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆

Required element ◆ Introduction of new concept ●

Questions on how to get started? Email highestawards@gscolorado.org

- **Leadership**—The girl(s) working towards the award should lead a team to accomplish her goals. Girl(s) should recruit a team to help with the project, delegate the work, and manage the team.
- **Root Cause**—The root cause of an issue should be addressed with the project. As Girl Scouts, we want to make a positive change in our community, and we want long-lasting effects. By looking at the root cause of a problem, we figure out why the issue is happening in the first place and create a solution to stop it from happening again.
- **Sustainability**—Projects should create a lasting change and not just a one-time event. This can be done by collaborating with community leaders and/or organizations and building alliances with mentors. The project should continue to have an impact after it is completed. Lasting change can have any of these characteristics:
 - a. Change someone’s mindset
 - b. Teach a new life skill
 - c. Create a permanent solution with the help of the community that can be used after the project
- **Measurability**—The success of a project can be determined based on the number of people the project helped, the number of people who were involved, the reduction of the community’s need, or other concrete numbers.
- **National and/or Global Link**—The girl(s) should be able to explain how the project connects to an issue that is relevant beyond the immediate community.

In addition to the elements listed above, Take Action Projects should have the following outcomes:

- **Community Engagement**—The project shows leadership by involving appropriate members of the community it is serving.
- **Personal Growth and Development**—Girl(s) should be able to describe the new skills that were gained, qualities that she (they) learned about herself, and how these discoveries will carry on in the future.

Bronze Award	Silver Award	Gold Award
Entire Girl Scout Junior-level troop may work on the one project	Small groups of no more than 4 Girl Scout Cadettes or individually	Individual only, Required Gold Award training
20 hours per girl	50 hours per girl	80 hours
Pre-approval is not required	A Silver Award Proposal should be submitted prior to starting project. One form should be completed per project.	Proposal must be approved prior to starting project. Should be submitted through GoGold Online .
Project advisor is not required but is recommended	A Project advisor is highly recommended	Project advisor required, plus a Gold Award Committee Mentor will be assigned to you.
Submit the Bronze Award Final Report to let council know what they did for their project and receive a code to order pins through the GSCO Shop .	Silver Award Final Report is required for final approval of each project. Approved projects will receive a code to order pins through the GSCO Shop .	Final report required for mentor/ council approval. Should be submitted through GoGold Online .

The project advisor must be a specialist or expert in the field of the Take Action project. The project advisor cannot be a parent or troop leader.

Final reports are due **Sept. 30**.

- Silver: Sept. 30 of the year they complete 8th grade
- Gold: Sept. 30 of the year they graduate high school
 - Girls who would like to participate in the annual Court of Awards ceremony need to have their final report reviewed by March 1. Girls who miss this date will be invited to the following year’s ceremony.