Girl Scouts Highest Awards Fact Sheet

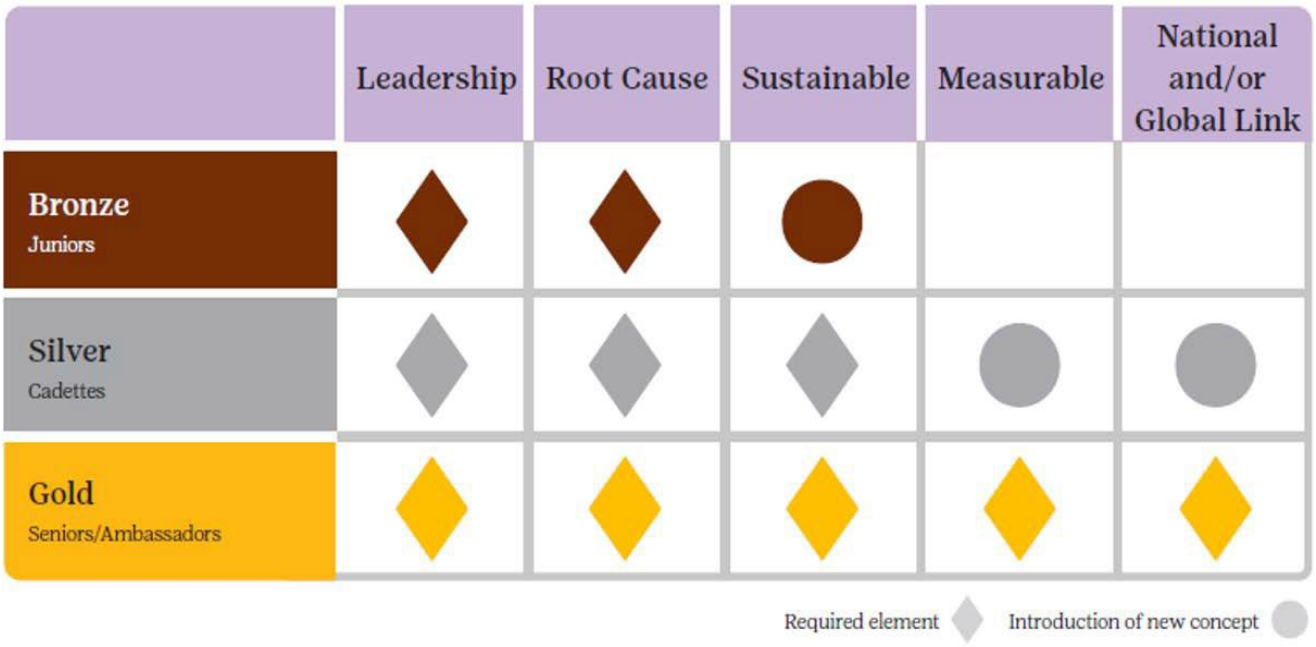
The Highest Awards—the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards—are leadership awards for Take Action projects that address the root cause of a community issue with a sustainable and measurable solution.

Take Action Projects:
Do you know the difference between a community service project and a Take Action project? Girl Scout Highest Awards must include a Take Action project that addresses 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
• 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	• 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.



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1. **Leadership—**The Girl Scout(s) working towards the award should lead a team to accomplish their goals. Girl Scout(s) should recruit a team to help with the project, delegate the work, and manage the team.
2. **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.
3. **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
4. **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.
5. **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 additional 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
Prerequisite: Earn one Junior Leadership Award OR complete one Junior Journey	Prerequisite: Earn the Bronze Award OR earn one Cadette Leadership Award OR complete one Cadette Journey	Prerequisite: Earn the Silver Award OR earn one S/A Leadership Award OR complete one S/A Journey
Entire Girl Scout Junior-level troop may work on the one project	Small groups of 2-4 Girl Scout Cadettes or individually	Individual only
20 hours per girl	50 hours per girl	80 hours
Pre-approval is not required	A Silver Award Proposal form should be submitted prior to starting project. One form should be completed per project.	Proposal should be submitted through Go Gold. Council staff will reach out to schedule initial presentation to Gold Award committee after submitting.
A project advisor is not required but is recommended	A project advisor is highly recommended	A Project advisor is required, plus a Gold Award Committee Mentor will be assigned by council.
Bronze Award Final Report must be submitted for each project. Will receive email after submitting will instructions to order pins.	Silver Award Final Report must be submitted for each project. After submitting Council staff will email with approval and instructions on how to order pins.	Final report must be submitted through Go Gold before scheduling final presentation to Gold Award committee
Highest Awards training for leaders available on gsLearn.	Highest Awards training for leaders available on gsLearn, including Silver Award specific module.	Gold Award training is required-available on gsLearn for girls to take on their own time. A Gold Award course for adults is also available.

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

- Bronze: Sept. 30th of the year they complete 5th grade
- Silver: Sept. 30th of the year they complete 8th grade
- Gold: Sept. 30th of the year they graduate high school
    - Girls who would like to participate in the spring's Highest Awards celebrations need to have their projects submitted and approved by April 1st.

Visit the Highest Awards webpage for more resources.