

Journey Retirement and New Leadership Awards FAQs

1. Why are Journeys being retired?

While some of the Journey content is fun, effective, and unique, Journeys are not consistently effective in preparing Girl Scouts for Highest Awards success. Additionally, many volunteers find the format challenging, and some Journey content is aged and duplicative of other parts of the National Program Portfolio. GSUSA also heard from Girl Scouts, volunteers, and councils that Journeys can feel too much like schoolwork. Despite modifications to Journeys in recent years, these challenges persisted.

2. When will the Journeys officially retire?

On October 1, 2026, Journeys will be officially removed from the Girl Scout program portfolio.

3. How will this impact Girl Scouts who are already working on Journeys?

It won't. Girl Scouts can continue to complete Journeys through October 1, 2026. Girl Scouts who are already working on (or who have completed applicable) Journeys will be able to use them as prerequisites for Highest Awards. Those who want to earn one of the new prerequisites can do so starting in July 2025. Further, if a Girl Scout completes a Journey before October 1, 2026, but starts their Highest Award after, Girl Scouts will honor this prerequisite—they never expire.

4. Will the Journey Summit awards also be retired?

Yes, the Journey Summit awards will be retired.

5. Will the badges that are part of the Outdoor Journey continue to exist as badges?

Yes!

6. What are the impacts to Take Action?

- The Highest Awards remain Take Action projects. Take Action fundamentals for each grade level will continue to be featured in the national award materials and training. Those who want more practice can opt to earn the refreshed Take Action or Global Action Leadership Award as their prerequisite.
- Take Action is for Juniors through Ambassadors who are ready to step into leadership roles in their communities and engage with abstract concepts like sustainability.
- Daisies and Brownies interested in taking action within their community are encouraged to pursue service projects where they'll learn the basics of being a good neighbor and see how they can be helpful to others.

7. What are the new Girl Scout Leadership Awards?

Girl Scouts has launched fresh Leadership Awards for Juniors through Ambassadors! These awards celebrate all the ways you lead—yourself, your team, and your community. They're about

building real skills that make a real impact, and gaining the confidence to turn your ideas into action. These awards include flexible options that let you explore and shape your own leadership style; you get to lead in a way that feels right for you. These awards are all represented by beautiful new pins that capture the essence of each award.

8. What are the Leadership Awards categories?

- **Personal Leadership:** Start with you—build confidence and courage to lead your way. The brand new True North award is the only one in this category, and is available for Junior, Cadettes, and Senior/Ambassador Girl Scouts.
- **Peer Leadership:** Be an awesome teammate while learning how to guide a group. Two awards are available in this category: the Silver Torch award for Cadettes and the Gold Torch award for Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts.
- **Teaching Leadership:** Share your skills and inspire younger kids with hands-on leadership. The awards in this category include:
 - *Junior Aide* - available to Junior Girl Scouts
 - *Program Aide* - available to Cadette Girl Scouts
 - *Volunteer in Training* - available to Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts
 - *Counselor in Training I* - available to Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts
 - *Counselor in Training II* - available to Ambassador Girl Scouts
- **Community Advocacy:** Turn your passions into action by making change locally or globally. The Take Action award and Global Action award are available to Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts.

9. What Leadership Awards are being retired?

- **The Leadership in Action (LiA) Award:** This award guided Cadettes to assist a Brownie group with a Journey. If you're a Cadette looking to build leadership skills by working with younger Girl Scouts, you'll get that chance through the refreshed Program Aide award.
- **The Silver and Gold Torch Award:** This award focused on serving a full term in a leadership position. Seniors who want to lead in group settings and collaborate with peers can continue building those skills through the updated Gold Torch award.

10. Are the Community Service Bar and Service to Girl Scouting Bar still available for Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors as a part of the leadership award suite?

The Community Service Bar and the Service to Girl Scouting Bars are still available; they have just been re-classified to "Service Awards."

11. What about the Global Action and Take Action badges?

The current Global Action badges (DBJCSA) and Take Action badges (DBJCSA) will not be retired until October 1, 2026. This means that through October 1, 2026, Girl Scouts can earn

either of the awards (depending on their level): the current DBJCSA badges and the new JCSA pins. However, we can only guarantee the badges will be in stock until January 2026.

12. When the Global Action badge is retired on October 1, 2026, there will no longer be Daisy and Brownie Global Action awards. What can these levels do instead?

Daisies and Brownies can participate in other meaningful global experiences, such as World Thinking Day, International Day of the Girl, the Democracy badges, or the Citizen badges.

13. How can you earn the Leadership Awards?

If you're in grades 4–12, you can earn these awards on your own, at events or camp, at troop meetings, or even in your community. They're flexible and designed to fit your interests and schedule. Plus, earning these awards is a fun, meaningful way to practice leadership and take on challenges that matter to you. And the cherry on top? These awards serve as prerequisites to earning Girl Scouts' Highest Awards: the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards.

14. What are the new prerequisites to earn Highest Awards?

Starting in July 2025, Girl Scouts will be able to select and earn one award from the list below:

	Previous Requirement	New Requirement
Bronze Award	Complete one Junior Journey	Pick one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior True North Award *NEW* • Junior Aide [refreshed] • Take Action Award [refreshed] • Global Action Award [refreshed] • Junior Journey (until Oct. 1, 2026)
Silver Award	Complete one Cadette Journey	Pick one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earn the Bronze Award as a Junior • Cadette True North Award *NEW* • Program Aide [refreshed] • Silver Torch [refreshed] • Take Action Award [refreshed] • Global Action Award [refreshed] • Cadette Journey (until Oct. 1, 2026)
Gold Award	Earn the Silver Award & complete one Journey OR Complete two Journeys	Pick one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earn the Silver Award as a Cadette • Senior/Ambassador True North Award *NEW* • Counselor or Volunteer in Training [refreshed] • Gold Torch [refreshed] • Take Action Award [refreshed] • Global Action Award [refreshed] • Senior or Ambassador Journey (until Oct. 1, 2026)

15. If a Girl Scout earned an existing Leadership Award using the pre-July 2025 guidelines, can they use that as their Highest Award prerequisite now, or do they need to earn the refreshed Leadership Award using the new guidelines?

Girl Scouts can apply the Leadership Awards as a prerequisite regardless of whether they were earned using the old or new guidelines.

16. If Girl Scouts already earned the old version of a Leadership Award (Junior Aide/Program Aide/VIT/CIT 1 and 2), are they allowed to earn the new one as well and display both on their vest??

Sure! Girl Scouts are invited to earn—and display—all awards that are relevant and meaningful to them.

17. Will Girl Scouts of Colorado still run leadership award programs, such as Program Aide training, CIT, etc.?

Girl Scouts of Colorado will continue to run CIT programs at camp as it has done in the past. The refreshed leadership suite removes the need for specialized training courses for the other Leadership Awards, and they are much more flexible in the ways the awards can be earned. It is possible to earn the refreshed awards without participating in a council-sponsored training. That being said, GSCO plans to offer various leadership award-earning events occasionally throughout the year.

18. Where can I find the new Leadership Awards?

All Leadership Award suite program materials are available in the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) in your MyGS account.

For more information about specific awards, visit our [Leadership Awards webpage](#) or [Highest Awards webpage](#).

For general questions about Journey retirement or the new Leadership Awards, email inquiry@gscolorado.org.

For questions about the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award, email highestawards@gscolorado.org.