



Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award Scholarship Rubric

Category	Description	0 Does Not Meet the Requirements	1 Meets Requirements Marginally	2 Meets Requirements Well (Indicates a Gold Award Project)	3 Exceeds Expectations	4 Far Exceeds Expectations (rare!)
National and/or Global Link	<i>The nominee explained how her project connects to an issue that is relevant beyond her own community, and ideally used research to inform the project itself.</i>	The nominee did not connect the project to a larger national and/or global issue. She did not convey research that helped to shape her project.	The nominee showed limited understanding of the connection between her project and a national and/or global issue. She demonstrated limited research on her issue.	The nominee specifically connected her project to a larger national and/or global issue. Her solution contributes to solving that problem.	The nominee specifically connected her project to a larger national and/or global issue. She has examined solutions to the same or similar problems in other communities or countries and used this research to inform her project.	The nominee connected her project to a larger national and/or global issue, used thorough research to inform her project, and has replicated or shared her project beyond her immediate community.
Measurability/Impact	<i>The nominee demonstrated her impact through data and other information. She used numbers to say, "Here's the change I planned to make, and here's how I know I made it."</i>	The project solution demonstrated little or no impact on the problem identified. The nominee may not have measured the impact, or the impact was not meaningful.	The project solution had limited impact on the problem identified; or the nominee made a clear effort to explain the problem, but the project solution does not match the problem well, or the impact is unclear.	The project solution successfully addressed the problem identified and the nominee explained how she measured her impact.	The project solution successfully addressed the problem identified for a significant number of individuals and/or to a significant degree. The nominee identified her success criteria and built them into her project planning.	The project successfully addressed the problem identified for a significant number of people to a significant degree. The nominee identified her success criteria and used data and analytics to demonstrate her project's impact over time.
Root Cause	<i>The nominee identified a root cause of her issue and addressed it through a well-constructed and researched project plan.</i>	The nominee did not identify a root cause of her issue. Her project addressed an immediate need with a short-term or one-off solution.	The nominee identified a root cause of her issue, but her project did not address it.	The nominee showed careful consideration of a root cause of the problem identified through a well-constructed approach.	The nominee presented a well-constructed and well-researched plan with careful attention to detail that described the problem, formed a well-reasoned solution that addressed a root cause , and executed on a plan to implement her solution.	The nominee presented a well-constructed and well-researched project plan that showed both careful attention to detail and creative thinking in addressing a root cause of her issue and the solution was especially innovative and/or the impact was profound. Her project may have addressed a new/underserved area.
Resources	<i>The nominee used the resources (technical, natural/environmental, financial, social, subject matter experts/human, infrastructure, local organizations, and more) available to her in a creative and effective way to increase her project's reach or expand its impact.</i>	The nominee did not describe the connection between her project and appropriate resources.	The nominee made limited use of available resources but there was some attempt to use available resources to enable or inform her work.	The nominee demonstrated a well-considered use of resources.	The nominee demonstrated a well-considered use of resources, and showed some innovation in finding or using resources in her project.	The nominee showed remarkable innovation or ingenuity in the use of her resources – making great use of existing resources, or overcoming a significant lack of resources available to her.
Sustainability	<i>The nominee's project has continued to have an impact after she has completed her part.</i>	No plan was put in place to continue the project and the solution cannot be maintained following this project.	There may be some impact beyond her involvement , but it's not very significant or solid. There may be a vague sustainability plan, but there is little evidence to back it up.	The project included a clear, thoughtful plan for sustainability .	The project has had a significant and lasting impact beyond her involvement.	The project has had a significant and lasting impact beyond her involvement, and that impact is strong and self-sustaining.

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Community Engagement	<i>The nominee exercised leadership by involving appropriate members of the community she served in her project.</i>	The nominee did the project for her target audience . She did not engage appropriate members of the community in the solution, before, during, or after the project.	The nominee may have attempted to work with appropriate members of the community for her project, but it was not a core element of her project's work. This project may have conveyed some benefit to the target audience but it was not a partnership.	The nominee engaged appropriate members of the community before, during, and after the project and she has demonstrated that her target audience is benefiting from her project.	The nominee engaged her community before, during, and after the project. There are demonstrated ways that appropriate community members are benefiting from and participating in her project. The community is helping sustain her work after the project's completion.	The nominee engaged her community before, during, and after the project. There are demonstrated ways that appropriate community members are benefiting from and participating in her project. The community has taken her idea and replicated it, or established it as an ongoing service.
Team Leadership	<i>The nominee led a team to accomplish her goals. She explains how she attracted people to help with her project, delegated the work, and managed her team.</i>	The nominee did not lead a team or engage others to help with her project - the nominee did it by herself or this project appears driven by an adult (parent, mentor, or existing organization that the girl served).	The nominee did not convey significant effort to engage a wider team from the community or the nominee led her project team with outsized support or direction (excessive help from an adult). Teamwork might have been limited to people from her immediate network performing only peripheral tasks but it was not a functioning team.	The nominee recruited and led a team to complete her project. There is evidence that the team performed their assigned roles.	The nominee effectively led a team that included at least one expert, along with a diverse representation of skill sets. She sparked action within her larger community.	The nominee thoughtfully assembled and engaged a team with diverse skill sets and areas of expertise. She showed extraordinary effort in inspiring others outside of her immediate network to take action on her chosen issue.
Personal Growth and Development	<i>The nominee described the new skills she gained, qualities she learned about herself, and how these discoveries will help her in the future.</i>	The nominee did not describe or exhibit meaningful personal growth as a result of completing her project.	The nominee gave general/non-compelling examples of personal growth.	The nominee described how her project changed her experience or outlook, and there is some evidence that this development will continue.	The nominee was able to articulate the impact completing the Gold Award had on her, including skills gained, how the project helped her learn about herself, and how these discoveries connect with her future plans.	The nominee expressed concrete examples of how she will apply lessons from her Gold Award in future endeavors. She has demonstrated ongoing civic engagement that is tied to, or inspired by her project.