

GSNYPENN Bronze Award Rubric – Troop Leaders

Troop Leaders are responsible for approving their Girl Scout Junior's Bronze Award projects to start work, as well as approving the final project before submitting to council. This document is intended to help Troop Leaders determine if the Bronze Award project meets GSUSA and GSNYPENN's criteria to set their teams up for success early on.

This document does **not** need to be submitted to council. Please refer to GSNYPENN.org for more detailed information and the Final Report submission **due by the September 1** immediately after the girl's 5th grade graduation, including if the team is girls of different ages and only one is in 5th grade.

Before you get started, make sure **all** team members fulfill **all the prerequisites** of the Bronze Award.

Prerequisites

- The Bronze Award Team may be a group of multiple Juniors, or even an entire Troop of Juniors! If there aren't any other Junior Girl Scouts in your neighborhood, seek out a friend or two to help!
- Each member of the Bronze Award Team is an **Officially Registered GSNYPENN Junior**
- Each member of the Bronze Award Team is in **Grade 4 or 5**
- Each member of the Bronze Award Team had completed **one Junior Journey, including the Take Action project at the end of the Journey**. (Completing the Journey does not count toward Award project hours).
- Each member of the Bronze Award Team has read the [Bronze Award Guidelines](#)

After prerequisites are completed, girls should start to think critically about what specifically they want to do for their Bronze Award project. They will need to understand the following **Key Terms and Phrases**:

- **Take Action Project:** a project that helps solve an issue by either reducing or eliminating the root cause of that issue. It has a long-term impact on the issue, rather than a one-time short-term impact
- **Issue:** an important topic or problem that needs to be addressed on a larger scale
- **Root Cause:** the most fundamental reason a problem exists; the source of the issue
- **Impact:** the effect a project has on the issue. What is the different because of the project?
- **Measurable:** change created by the project can be observed and tracked in a meaningful way
- **Sustainable:** change created by the project is long-term; the positive impact will continue even after Girl Scouts have completed work on their project and/or they will help to continue the work.

GSNYPENN believes that **Girl Scouts Can Change the World** but does not expect them to completely resolve a world issue for their Bronze Award projects! At the Bronze Award level, it is most important that Girl Scouts are **beginning to understand and can practice implementing** the concept of the Take Action project, and that the key pieces of "Take Action" are **emerging** in their work. This will set them up for success when they go on to pursue the Silver and eventually the Gold Award, which has increasingly stricter criteria to be awarded.

Once girls understand what the Bronze Award project will entail, they can choose an issue that they are interested in addressing. To help **Develop the Project**, you can ask the girls the following questions:

1. What causes do you care about? What issues do you feel passionate about addressing? Example: The girls may give answers like “animals!” (animal welfare) or “litter!” (protect environment)
2. What is an issue in our community that we might be able to affect or change? Example: The girls might be aware of a trash/littering issue in a local park
3. What is the root cause of the issue we have chosen? (ask why there is so much trash? What is causing the problem? Assign homework to research causes of litter – will help get to the root causes of an issue) Example: The girls determine that a lack of trash and recycling bins in the park worsen the litter problem
4. What is our specific project idea ? Example: “We want city permission to add another trash and recycling bin to the park, and install a no littering sign”
5. How can our project affect the issue by reducing or eliminating the root cause ? Example: Adding another trash and recycling bin will make more space for trash to go. A no littering sign will encourage people to be aware of their impact on the environment.
6. How will we measure the success of our project ? How will we know it worked? We will monitor the new trash and recycling bins 2 x per week for a month to see if they are being used and that no litter is just left on the ground.
7. How will we know if the project could be sustainable , or make a long-term impact? The park agreed to make sure their maintenance department would add these new bins to their current pick up schedule, making sure the bins are empty and ready to use every week.

Ultimately, the Bronze Award project needs to meet the following criteria to be approved:

Basic Requirements
<input type="checkbox"/> The project is led by a Junior Troop , a group of Juniors , or a Junior with some friends.
<input type="checkbox"/> Candidates meet all prerequisites (in 4 th or 5 th grade, officially registered as juniors with GSNYPENN, completed one Junior Journey and the Take Action project at the end)
<input type="checkbox"/> The project provides an opportunity for girls to lead others , and their team is identified
<input type="checkbox"/> Each girls spends a MINIMUM of 20 hours of work on the project
<input type="checkbox"/> The girls understand the issue they are helping to reduce or eliminate
<input type="checkbox"/> Rules, regulations and safety issues are identified, and plans are included on how to address them

Red Flags to watch out for that might **NOT** qualify for a Bronze Award:

- Volunteering for another organization or existing program is community service, not take action.
- Collecting, or making, and donating items (toys, food, books, bottles & cans, etc.) is community service, not take action. This type of activity may be **PART** of a larger Silver Award project.
- Performing short-term tasks (organizing materials/painting a room/fixing broken furniture) to benefit an organization is community service. Again, this may be **PART** of a larger project.

Bronze Award Resources

Community Service Project vs. Take Action Project:

Community service projects are acts of kindness and important ways to help something or someone right now. They are commonly short-term projects that almost always multiply efforts that are already in place. Examples include collecting food for an existing food pantry, providing clothing or toiletries to people who have suffered during a disaster, cleaning up a rundown playground, or picking up trash at a park, forest, or beach.

Girl Scout Take Action projects address an issue by tackling the factors that cause or contribute to it. As you may expect, these projects have a far-reaching influence over a longer period of time. They're designed to change something for the better by reducing or eliminating a root cause of an issue. Projects associated with Journeys and the highest awards (the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award) are Take Action projects.

When you take action, you work as a team to:

Here are three ways to create sustainable change:

1. Identify a problem
2. Research the root cause of the problem
3. Come up with a sustainable solution
4. Develop a team plan (who will it help and how)
5. Put the plan into action (how will you know you met the goal)
6. Reflect on what worked, what didn't, and what you've learned

1. Make your solution permanent
2. Educate and inspire others to be part of the change
3. Change a rule, regulation, or law
4. Work with a community organization to take over

Examples

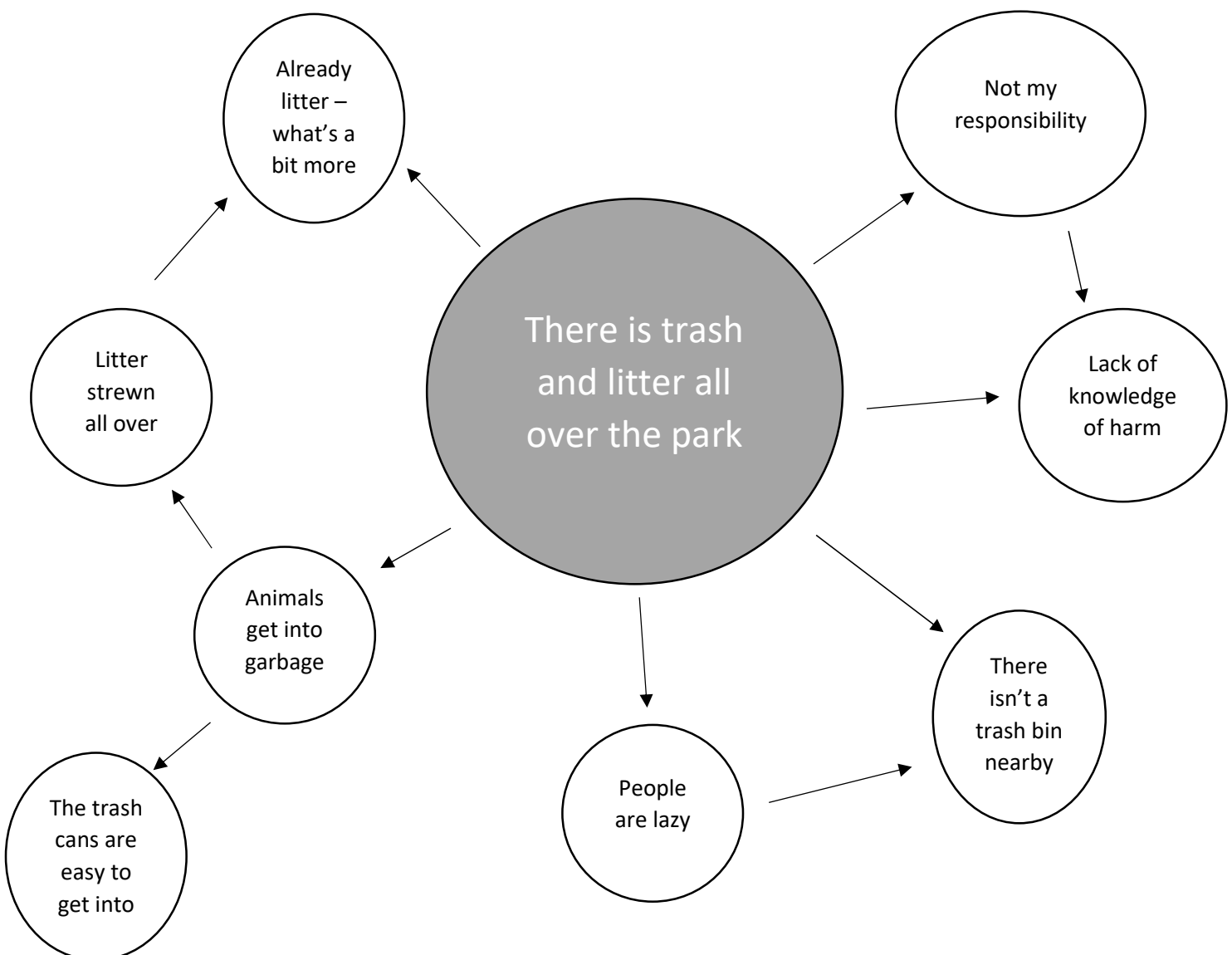
Community Service Project	Take Action Project
Addresses an immediate need in the community	Addresses the root cause of an issue in the community
A project done FOR the community (i.e. you plan an event)	A project done <u>WITH</u> the community (i.e. you work with an organization to plan an event for a project)
A one-time project that helps something or someone now	A long-term project that is sustainable and makes a lasting impact

Mind-Mapping Tool (Example):

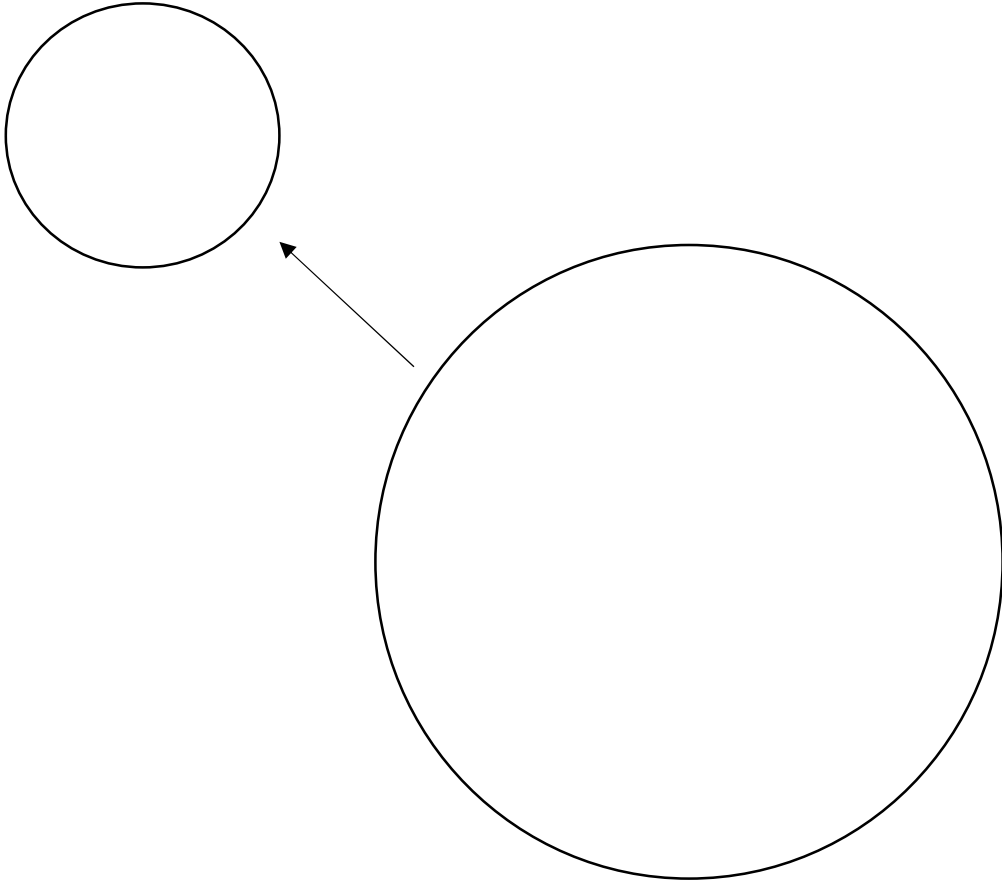
Create your own mind-mapping diagram like the one shown here, using one of the issues facing your community. There is a template in the next page for you to use. Follow these instructions:

- Write the community issue in the middle of the paper or anywhere that works for you.
- Think about what some of the causes of this issue could be. Why is there litter all over the park? Why do animals get into the trash? What happens when they get in the trash? Why do people think litter is not their responsibility? Keep asking questions until you can't go further (and you can use some research to look up why people litter or what cause so much litter to be in the environment to help with this exercise.)
- Now, try connecting the different causes you come up with to each other and to the main issue. How do the causes connect to each other? Do you see a pattern?
- Pick a root cause that you will address in your take action project. We chose to add more trash and recycle bins as the research showed that was the most reported reason people littered.

This activity will help you come up with different ways to approach a problem, as well as different ways you might go about addressing it.



Mind-Mapping Tool:



Bronze Awards FAQs:

Here is a template for your log of hours (you are not required to use this if you have another you prefer):

[Example One](#)

[Example Two](#)

Here is a template to log all the girls' names/addresses/school (you will need to fill this out either here in the spreadsheet to upload or in the final report form itself):

[Participant Info Sheet](#)

Hours that do not count toward the 20 hours:

- ♣ Completing Journey
- ♣ Time spent on product sales (fall sale & cookie sales)
- ♣ Time working on the project by other people
- ♣ No more than 4 hours can be counted toward fundraising.

Money Earning Activities

If your project requires a money earning activity, a request must be completed and submitted to NYPENN. Please note that if your troop has not participated in both the Cookie Sales and the Fall Product Sales you will not be eligible to participate in a money earning activity to support your project.

https://www.gsnypenn.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsnypenn/documents/volunteer_resources/GSNYPENN%20MY2019%20Policies.pdf

Starting at the bottom of page 18 – 20 is the money earning policies for our council.

Extensions

There are no extensions. Plan ahead and don't wait until the last minute to begin the project. Provide extra time to account for unforeseen issues.

No splitting projects by grade

All project final reports must be submitted by September 1 when the oldest girl/s in the group earning the award are entering 6th grade. For example, if you started the project with 4th and 5th grade girls, all girls, including the girls entering 5th grade, must complete the requirements when the older girl/s enter 6th grade in the fall and be included on the final report submission. If they are not able to have the project completed, the girls entering 5th grade can work on a different project to earn the award while they are in 5th grade.

If you have any concerns about your project, including hours, please contact:

Zoe Zygmunt, Awards Engagement Manager

zzygmunt@gsnypenn.org

(607) 323-1929