Gold Award Requirements

General Information

    To earn a Gold Award, Girls MUST:

- ✓ Be a registered Senior or Ambassador level Girl Scout at the time that a proposal is submitted.

- ✓ Prior to submitting a proposal, have completed ONE of the following:
  - o The Silver Award AND one Senior or Ambassador level Journey
  - o Two Senior or Ambassador level Journeys

- ✓ Complete the Awards training prior to submitting a proposal.

- ✓ Complete a project proposal online using the GSNYPENN website.

- ✓ Once projects are submitted, it may take up to 1 month to process and gain approval to begin. You will be scheduled to present your project to the Awards Committee and following that may be asked to provide an addendum featuring additional information in order to gain approval – please plan accordingly.

- ✓ Submit a completed final report at the completion of the project – reports will not be accepted after September 1st after high school graduation. Report is completed online using GoGold (you can find the link on the GSNYPENN website.)
  - ❖ *Reports are required by September 1 to allow for processing time in case there are any additional materials requested or questions from the committee.*
  - o Keep a detailed log of hours in the GoGold app as you work on your project
  - o Take pictures during your project to submit with your final report.
  - o Once your final project is approved, you will be asked to submit a head shot with a 3-4 sentence description of your project.

- ✓ Using the Gold Award Guidelines can be very helpful for planning and implementing your project.

- ✓ Girls may now do projects that benefit the Girl Scout community. Projects must still meet the requirements that are key to taking sustainable action: the project makes a lasting difference in the local community, region, or beyond. The project puts the Girl Scout Promise and Law into action. The project includes provisions to ensure sustainability. The project identifies national and/global links to the girl's selected issue and the project inspires others.

- ✓ If you wish to address a sensitive issue (such as mental health) you must speak with the council's Girl Experience and Awards Manager prior to submitting a proposal.

- ✓ Project Advisor should not be a parent or troop leader unless you can identify why that person is an expert in their field.

- ✓ 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. Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors

may solicit philanthropic donations to their councils of cash or in-kind goods for Girl Scout Gold Award projects, provided they have secured prior written permission from their council's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Development Officer, or their designee. In addition, girls must abide by their own council's policies and procedures with regard to this matter.

Gold Award projects are NOT Community Service Projects – they are Take Action projects, which means:
✓ Projects cannot be one-time events (creating/collecting/donating items).
✓ Projects cannot be fundraisers to collect money for another organization.
✓ Projects must identify the root cause, have long-term benefits and sustainable support.

Hours
- Required 80 hours minimum
  - What counts toward my 80 hours?
    - Research & Planning (before approval) = 16 hours max (roughly 20%)
    - Filling out forms (other) = 5 hours max
    - Money Earning/philanthropic solicitations (other) = 5-10 hours – should not be the focus of your project
    - Volunteer Enlistment, Volunteer training, Set Up, Shopping, Implementation, Clean Up, Debrief = 35-55 hours
  - What does not count toward my 80 hours?
    - Completing Journey or required training
    - Money earning activities over 10 hours
    - Research & Planning prior to approval more than 16 hours
    - Travel time (i.e. driving to get materials or to get to location) [UNLESS you are actively working during the trip]
    - Implementation & Promotion prior to approval
    - Time working on the project by other people

Elements to Include
If you cannot answer these then you are not ready to submit your project proposal

- Issue: What is the problem that your project will address?

- Root Cause: Define what underlying factors cause this issue to keep happening ("but why") and how your project will address it.

- Sustainability: Establish long-term change in your community; others benefit from your project for years; creates opportunity for others to be involved in working for the solution even after you've finished your project. Think:
  - Can you partner with an agency or group to continue the project?
  - Can you form a committee to take over?
  - Create a plan to continue to promote it after you're done.
  - It's not a one-time event

- Awareness/Education: How are you making aware or educating other people about the issue and the root cause and how they can help?

- Leadership: You must build a diverse team of peers and involve the community, 1 or more partners (for resources/ location/ volunteers/ knowledge), can involve community leaders.

- Measurable: Use SMART goals; projects must have a desired result that is Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Timely.
  - Specific – Goals define what you'll do & how
  - Measurable – Use numbers, facts, figures to determine impact (think about the number of people who benefitted/attended events/volunteered; quantity of whatever distributed; frequency of use of project)
    - Can use surveys, volunteer log, attendance records, questionnaires, pledge forms, reduction in need
  - Attainable – Realistic to achieve during your timeframe
  - Relevant – Goals are connected to your issue and all parts make sense
  - Timely – Submit a realistic timeline with your project of how you'll use your time and accomplish your goals by the end of your project period; include tasks needing to be done in order

- Global Link: How can your solution/project affect the bigger picture of the issue and be spread to other areas (this must be included in your final report).

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

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