



Checklist

We are so excited that you have decided to take on the **Silver Award**! Completing the Silver Award is a great way to learn how to recognize a problem in your community, build a team, and take action. If you are working independently from a troop, the Silver Award is also a great way to show that it only takes one person to make a change! So, what does it take to complete your Silver Award? You can find all the information to get started below!

Before You Get Started:

- Must be a 6th, 7th or 8th grade Cadette Girl Scout.
- Complete a Cadette Leadership Journey.
 - This includes all the sessions and awards for the journey and a completion of a Take Action Project. (please note, Journey-in-a Day is never recommended and will not be adequate preparation for your Silver Award).
- Check out a **GSWESTOK Silver Award Workshop To-Go kit**. (*While not required, this is a helpful tool to help yourselves become familiar with the ins and outs of the award.*)
- Submit a **GSWESTOK** Silver Award proposal form.

Checklist:

- Build your Girl Scout Silver Award team.**
 - What is a Girl Scout Cadette team? It consists of you and other Girl Scout Cadettes who are on this adventure together, plus your troop volunteer/group advisor. If there are no other Girl Scout Cadettes in your troop, seek out other Girl Scouts friends in your Service Unit—they can earn the award with you! Or you can fly solo.
 - This is also a good time to think about what you each enjoy doing most. Soon, your team will explore and choose an idea for a Silver Award (Take Action) Project.
- Explore your Community.**
 - To solve any problem, you must first identify it. Start by asking yourself what matters most to you. What connections can you make between the issues that you care about and the issues in your own community?
- Choose your Take Action Project based on your interests and community needs.**
 - Before you pick your project:
 - Your Girl Scout Silver Award should be a **new** project. (*In other words, you may not take over a previous Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award. It also cannot be the same as your Journey Take Action Project.*) Your project should also address a community need/issue in a sustainable way. Take a look in your community and think about ways you can find a solution to a problem you see.

- **Develop your project.**
 - Now that you've chosen a project, explore its root cause. Address the root cause in a way that displays active leadership. Involve others in your efforts. *(Please review **Community Service vs. Take Action resource** for examples of projects that include active leadership.)*

- **Community Partners**

You will be reaching out to community groups and organizations to research the issue or problem you are concerned about. This research may lead to partnerships.

 - Applying **Active Leadership** will lead to Community engagement; example - educating and involving others.
 - Make sure your project is **sustainable**.
 - How will your project remain active even when you and your troop are done? Will another person or group be able to pick up the project and carry it out when you are done?

- **Make a Plan and Put in into Motion.**
 - Time to get started! Create a list of the steps you and/or your team needs to do. A team works together, and each girl can be responsible for a task. Set deadlines and keep to them! Consider using the chart in the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting to track your progress.
 - Ask yourself how much time you need to finish your project and if that timeline is realistic. We suggest a timeline of 50 hours minimum, over a 3-6-month period.
 - Your time and talents are often more important than money. So, be creative! You may realize your project may not need that much money.

- **Reflect, Share your Story, and Celebrate!**
 - Create a trifold display (28x40 inches and no topper) of your project, this will be displayed for view at the ceremony.
 - Complete your Silver Award Final Report by March 1st to be recognized at the Spring Girl Awards Ceremony. Please include:
 - Budget sheet
 - Hours Log
 - Flyers
 - Educational Materials
 - 1 group photo (sent to info@gswestok.org)

Things to Remember:

- A successful Silver Award project is a Take Action project (*the **Community Service vs. Take Action resource** will help you determine if your Bronze Award meets the requirements of a Take Action project.*)
- Girls may not take over a previous Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award project.
- Girls will put a suggested minimum of 50 hours of work towards the award.
- Girls should pick a project that involves something they are passionate about.
- Girls often think that *active leadership* means completing all of the work themselves when, in fact, it is the opposite. Active leadership is displayed when girls involve others in their efforts. Girls must recruit, coordinate, educate and/or inspire others to move their cause forward. So, it is important to develop these skills for successful teamwork.
- A Silver Award project cannot be a one-time collection drive.

If you have any questions along the way, please contact us at info@gswestok.org. We are here to help by answering any questions or giving you advice and guidance. Good luck, and we can't wait to see how you change your world!

****All Final Reports must be received by March 1, to be recognized at the Girl Awards Ceremony that spring.***