



## The Quick- Guide to Understanding Gold

This is a short go-to guide to make sure your project idea meets all the requirements for Gold. And of course, if you are ever unsure or have any questions be sure to contact the Gold Award specialist. They are here to help!

### What is a Gold Award Project?

A Gold Award project is a *take-action project*, which includes five essential elements. In the project you will identify the root cause of a community issue that you are passionate about. The action you take to solve it must address a need and have long term benefits. You must show active leadership. Lastly, the project must be sustainable and measurable with a global link included.



**Something to remember:** A successful Gold Award project has true impact. So holding one workshop that teaches a handful of girls about body image won't do. Stretch yourself so that you create meaningful change. Then measure it! Get a feel for the scope of Gold Award projects by visiting [girlscouts.org](http://girlscouts.org) and searching for "Girls Changing the World."

### What does "Take Action" really mean?

Take action means that you work to understand the root of a problem so that you can develop a project that continues to address that problem-most importantly after your part is done. Your solution is long term and lasting.

### How do I find the root cause of my issue?

Research! Research is the most important part of discovering why a problem exist. While doing research about your issue, it should also lead you to an organization or group that aligns with the work that you are wanting to complete for your project. Creating a partnership with a group or organization will give your project a better chance of becoming long lasting.



## How do I show active leadership in my project?

You can show active leadership by involving others in your efforts. Create a team of volunteers that show your same passion in your idea. This could be done within your school, church, or in the organization that you are working with. Although the Gold Award is completed solo, you will still need to have a group of people who support your efforts and are willing to assist you with putting your plan in motion.

## How do I make my project sustainable?

Your project is sustainable when it carries on or continues to have an impact, even after you have done your part.

An example would be that the organization you work with or a group at your school agrees to continue your project. You could also create a binder, pamphlet, video, website or social media campaign that a group or organization agrees to maintain.

## How do I make my project measurable?

Your project is measurable when you collect information or data throughout your project and use it to show that your actions have had an impact on the community issue you've chosen to address.

Some examples would be that you could show the number of people the project helped, the number of people who got involved, or a number that shows the change in a community's need. You can also ask those who have worked with you or those who have helped to complete an evaluation. Then use their responses to measure impact.



## How do I include a global link?




You don't have to leave the country! Your project has a global link when you take your project outside of your local community. It also inspires others to take action.

You could take your project to

- Local youth groups
- Community Centers
- Churches, synagogues, or mosques
- School districts

You can also create a global link by investigating how people in other communities or other parts of the world address your issue. What kinds of programs do they have in place? How can you learn from these? Can you incorporate what you learn about other communities into your project?

## What a Gold Award project isn't:

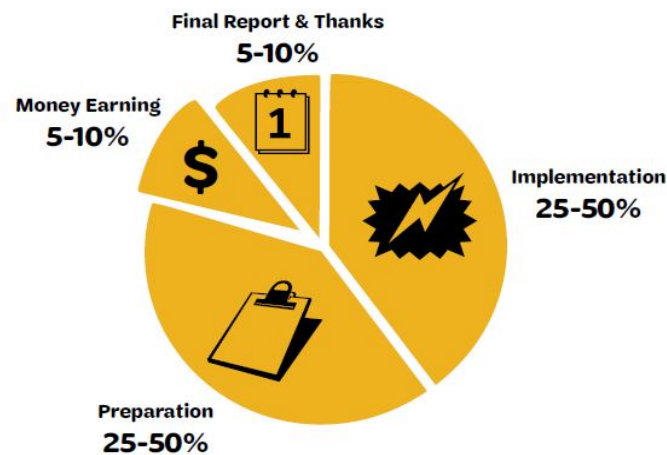
-  It's not a project that benefits Girl Scouts. That doesn't mean you can't include Girl Scouts, but the Girl Scout community can't be your target audience.
-  It's not a collection project. When you collect food once, it's not sustainable. Since it's a one-time occurrence it doesn't identify and solve a root cause.
-  It's not a "canned project." A canned project is a pre-designed and demands only that you implement someone else's project (a blood drive or annual clean-up). A Gold Award take action project requires you to act in a leadership position from the get-go, designing a sustainable service or advocacy project on an issue that you have carefully researched. It's a brand new concept.



## How much time does it take?

Plan to spend at least 80 hours on the Gold Award project-that's the minimum. You will keep track of your time in a log, making note each time you work on your project. This information is essential! Once your project is complete, you will input this information on your final report. So, utilize an app, create a spreadsheet or simply just use a notebook.

Use this chart to guide you in how you spend project time.



Note: Implementation is the process of leading and performing the work you defined in your project proposal and making changes, when necessary, to achieve the project's goal.

**Remember:** The root of any great project starts with you wanting to solve a problem that you feel passionately about. It's also a project that YOU want to do.

Although the road to Gold will be long and tedious, the rewards will be more than worth it! So, hang in there and go change the world!